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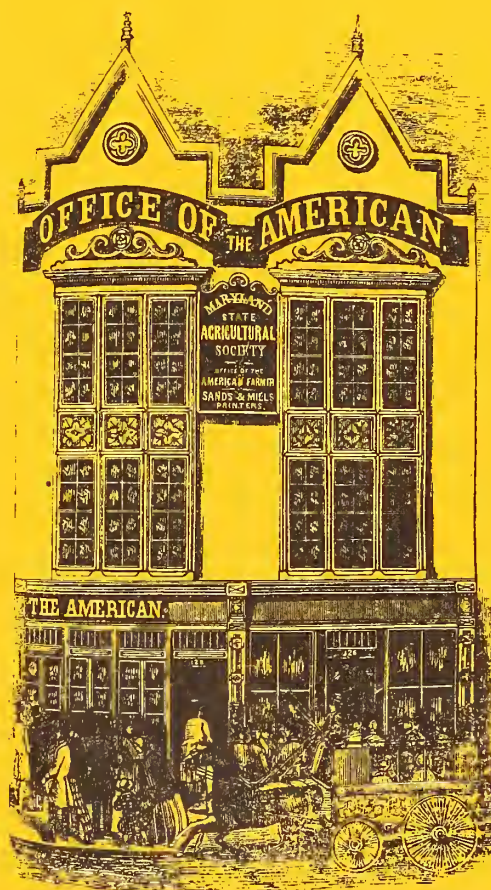
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HERITAGE OF AGRICULTURE IN MARYLAND

1776 — 1976

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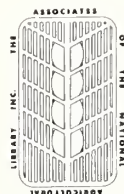
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Maryland Bicentennial Conestoga Wagon (Picture taken at Valley Forge, July 4, 1976).

EDITORIAL



REFLECTIONS

Beginnings . .

There is, at present, a growing concern over the position that Maryland agriculture will reach by the year 2076. At the time of the American Revolution the colony served as one of the major food suppliers to the Continental Army. During the post-Civil War period, the application of science and technology accelerated both diversification and production in agriculture. As a result, Maryland agriculture today not only includes the growing of tobacco, corn, soybeans, wheat, tomatoes, green vegetables, apples, strawberries, and other fruits but also encompasses the raising of livestock, nursery and turf sod farming businesses, a thriving poultry industry, and other important agriculturally related endeavors. What significant historical circumstances made these developments possible? What progress has been made to date by Maryland agriculturists? How should these Maryland agriculturists approach the future?

On July 30, 1976, individuals from various parts of the Bay State attended a Bicentennial Symposium on Maryland Agriculture held at the National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Maryland. The purpose was to re-examine the progress and the role of some interesting aspects of Maryland agriculture and its impact on the two hundred years of growth and achievement of the nation.

The Symposium began with welcoming remarks from Richard A. Farley, Director of the National Agricultural Library, briefly describing the vital role which prominent early Marylanders played in the establishment of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was followed by eight outstanding speakers from various disciplines who gave enthusiastic presentations spanning such diverse subject areas as the post-revolutionary economy, sports literature in farm journals, wine-making, the environmental crisis in the Chesapeake Bay, bee-keeping, living historical farms, oral history, and the vital inter-relationship between energy and agriculture.

Many supportive organizations and individuals were involved in helping to make this Symposium a productive one. As the host organization, the Associates of the National Agricultural Library, Inc. is especially indebted to the following organizations: The Agricultural History Society; The Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums; the Maryland Department of Agriculture; the Maryland Hall of Records; the Oral History Organization in the Mid-Atlantic Region, and the National Agricultural Library. A special debt of gratitude should be given to the Prince George's County Bicentennial Commission for officially endorsing the Symposium and to the many individual financial donors (see separate donors' list). The publication of this issue is sponsored in part by the Maryland Bicentennial Commission. Finally, to the Boordy Vineyard of Rider, Maryland and the Provenza Vineyard of Brookville, Maryland, sincere appreciation is extended for their generosity.

This Symposium resulted in a scholarly and useful publication which is integrally supplemented by an outstanding 50 page reference work, published as Part II of this issue, by Vivian Wiser which is entitled "Select Bibliography on the History of Agriculture in Maryland."

Special thanks to the following members of the Editorial Committee: Ruth Pyne, Judy Merrill, Sharon Crutchfield, Judy Ho, Robyn Frank, Angelina Carabelli. Appreciation is extended to Shirley Surprenant for her skill and patience in preparing the camera ready copy of this issue.

— Editors:

*Alan F. Fusonie
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PART I

WELCOMING REMARKS

The National Agricultural Library, a collection of over 1,500,000 volumes, housed in this building adjacent to the Agricultural Research Center, might well be considered a part of the fruition of the dream of many Marylanders who have contributed to the advancement of American Agriculture.

From colonial times down to the establishment of the United States Department of Agriculture, they saw the need for a national program. John B. Bordley, a Maryland Agriculturist, was one of the organizers in 1785, of the *Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Agriculture*, an organization with a national membership. In 1789 the membership included 23 Marylanders, among them Harry Dorrey Gauph, a correspondent of George Washington.

Another milestone for Maryland agriculture emerged when John Stuart Skinner began the publication of the *American Farmer* in 1819, marking the beginnings of agricultural journalism in the United States. Its pages reflected agitation for national concerns as it reported the activities of various agriculturally related societies. Here one finds, Charles B. Calvert, agriculturist and Congressman from Riverdale, Maryland, and others from the Maryland Agricultural Society, urging the establishment of a national crop reporting service, a federal department of agriculture, a national experiment station near Washington, as well as working for the establishment of a semi-private state agricultural college — the nucleus of the present University of Maryland.

After the formation of the United States Agricultural Society in 1852, Calvert could be found at each of its annual meetings promoting the establishment of a separate department of Agriculture. On January 11, 1856, at the Society's annual meeting, being held at the Smithsonian, Calvert took the opportunity to further enunciate his position on the need for a department of agriculture:

When a cabinet minister represents agriculture, the farmer will be appreciated by the government, and proper steps will be taken to advance his noble calling by all means possible; but until such a platform is formed and such a representative takes his seat in the Cabinet, the hope the farmer cherishes that the government will regard agriculture as its chief bulwark and cherish its advance accordingly, is fallacious.

(Journal of the United States Agricultural Society, 1856, p. 67)

As a Congressman, Calvert was ultimately assigned to the Committee on Agriculture which developed the bill for the establishment of a separate Department of Agriculture.

From the tall ships in New York Harbor, to the gathering of the Wagon Trains at Valley Forge, to the numerous other meaningful celebrations that have occurred and will be occurring across the country, our spirits and minds are grasping the total mosaic of how far we have come as a people and what remains to be done.

On behalf of Secretary Butz and the staff of the National Agricultural Library, I welcome you and assure you that we will do everything possible to make your day with us productive, profitable, and pleasant.

— Richard A. Farley
Director

TOBACCO THE VILLAIN?

A COMMENT ON THE AGRICULTURAL HISTORY OF MARYLAND IN THE DECADES FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

by
Edward C. Papenfuse
State Archivist and
Commissioner of Land Patents

Much of the agricultural history of late 18th and early 19th century is written as if extensive cultivation of tobacco exhausted the soil of the tidewater regions and forced a mass migration of poor planters to the west in search of a better life. On the surface such an interpretive framework sits well with the bare facts of what happened. In the 1790s there was a migration of people from the tidewater region of Maryland. By the early 1800's considerable tidewater soil was (especially on the Western Shore) wasted, much of it being washed away to clog up the many streams and rivers feeding the Chesapeake Bay. But, was tobacco the villain, and was the ultimate depletion of both population and soil of Maryland's tidewater regions so predictable prior to at least 1793?

In the 18th century there were two markets for tobacco: the quality market and the inferior grade, bulk market. The quality market was centered in London where individual hogsheads were graded and sold to the highest bidder. Often this tobacco was shipped on consignment by the planter who assumed the risk of shipment and reaped the benefit of the higher profits from a London sale. Sometimes when the market was exceptionally brisk, cash purchases of quality tobacco were made by merchants in Maryland, but in either case the tobacco had to meet the quality standards of the London buyers. The bulk market was in France and most lower-grade Maryland tobacco was shipped there. Prior to the Revolution it went by way

of Glasgow and afterwards directly to France, but the demand in both cases was for virtually ungraded bulk shipments. The amount of tobacco produced in Maryland of a quality that met the demands of the London market was limited by the amount of good tobacco soil available and by the market for other cash crops, such as wheat, that encouraged diversification and the allocation of planter capital out of tobacco and into grain. Before the Revolution, the quality tobacco trade, as represented by the quantity shipped to London, was approximately 78 percent of the Maryland tobacco crop, or in 1774 approximately 24,500 hogsheads. How much of the tobacco grown by 1785 was of a quality that would make consignment profitable is difficult to ascertain, but it probably was not much more than 16,000 hogsheads. In that year, the total amount of all grades of tobacco produced in Maryland was approximately 19,000 hogsheads, or a 39 percent drop in total tobacco production since 1774.

No more than 3,000 hogsheads were shipped to the bulk market in France in 1785. Robert Morris had a monopoly with the French that year and the best estimates are that he was able to purchase only 2,800 in Maryland at a time when he had both cash and need for 2,200 more.

During the war the high risks involved in shipping tobacco to European markets coupled with the army's need for food encouraged planters to cultivate grain crops. For a short time after the war the world demand

for wheat was sufficient to prevent a hasty return of Maryland planters to tobacco, particularly those working the poorer tidewater lands who formerly had produced for the bulk market.

In 1785, however, the demand for poorer grades of tobacco increased dramatically although it would be another year or so before its import would be felt. Robert Morris's contract of 1785-87 to supply the French Tobacco Monopoly with 5,000 hogsheads of Maryland tobacco a year provided him with a considerable credit balance in Europe and allowed his personal bills of exchange and notes to circulate freely in tobacco-growing areas. Morris notes and bills began to have their effect in Maryland in the summer of 1786, principally through efforts of merchants like Wallace, Johnson, and Muir of Annapolis, who borrowed Morris's bills on credit to pay their London bills and who began to use their specie plus additional credit from Morris to purchase lower grades of tobacco on Morris's account.

The Morris purchase of the poorer grades of tobacco, while gradually bringing the price down because more and more lower-grade tobacco was grown to meet the demand, released money into the sector of the economy where it was needed most: among the poorer planters, who were now less concerned about the emission of paper money and debtor relief laws because they at last could begin to meet the demands of their creditors. By the time the General Assembly, convened in April 1787, the widespread support for paper money and debtor relief which was so evident a year before had evaporated, although not before the previous legislature had made it easier to declare insolvency for those who were so far in debt that even the guarantee of a good market for their crop offered no hope of redemption. On May 28, 1787, an Annapolis observer wrote:

Our Assembly has just Risin. The paper money scheme was laid aside & we Hope may not be ever taken up again. A very decided majority of the People were found against it. The proposed Installment law has been rejected and we have good hopes that future assemblys will endeavour to avoid interfering with private contracts and will be zealous to restore credit and confidence.

A year later, he could write that even the insolvency law "which has done so much mischief is repealed. This

is an happy even and has saved us from much loss which would have happened under its continuance." By then the Morris purchase was almost complete and his contract with the French at an end, but, for two years, it served a most useful purpose in Maryland's economy by alleviating the crises caused by inadequate demand for alternative cash crops like wheat.

Maryland tobacco exports continued to climb until 1793, when they nearly reached prewar levels. Most of this growth came from the poorer grades of tobacco raised on marginal lands and had little effect on the planter of quality tobacco who successfully husbanded his soil. Merchants competed for a limited quantity of quality tobacco and, when the French market for bulk tobacco revived, explored ways of handling the poorer grades of tobacco in place of the diminishing supply of wheat consignments. White population in the tidewater country of the Western Shore continued a modest growth increasing from 42,509 in 1782 to 44,219 in 1790.

After 1793, when the demand for poorer quality tobacco fell precipitously because of the European wars and the collapse of the French market, the poorer planters became wheat farmers once more with especially disastrous consequences for both the land and themselves. While the lull in the market for lesser quality tobacco had lasted for a decade during the war, it continued for almost a generation beginning in 1793. Planters with marginal lands once again ceased production of tobacco. The effect was noticed immediately by merchants such as Robert Ferguson. Ferguson, backed by Glasgow capital, had opened a store after the Revolution on the Potomac at Port Tobacco in Charles County and was active in trading goods for inferior grades of tobacco, much like other Scottish merchants had done before the war. In August 1793, he observed that:

The shortness of last grown crop will be greater in this neighbourhood than was expected, not more than 200 hhds are yet inspected at this warehouse and from what I learn not much more to bring, however it will not exceed another hundred. Before the war the qty inspected here was 1000 hhds.

Instead of raising tobacco, planters overworked their marginal lands with grain. They ploughed deeper and more often, cultivating as much area as their labor supply would permit, which for grain crops meant at least five times the ground that they formerly planted with tobacco. The rains washed their soils away into the streams that once carried their tobacco to market. With the

streams and rivers silted up, there was no turning back again, even if the demand for marginal grades of tobacco increased once peace returned to Europe. The land was gone and the poorer planters had no alternatives but to leave in considerable numbers for wheat farms in western New York, for tobacco plantations in the West, or for jobs in Baltimore. By 1800, four out of the five Western Shore tidewater counties had lost population and the fifth had gained only 25 people.

Planters could hardly be blamed for what they had done to the soil or for abandoning their homes once their land was depleted. There was no market for the only tobacco they could grow and their one alternative was a crop singularly destructive to the resource they could no longer afford to husband. Thus after 1793 changes adversely affecting tidewater Maryland agriculture were wrought over which poor planters had little control and in which tobacco could hardly be considered instrumental let alone be called the villain.

A Note on Sources:

The documentation for this paper is to be found in Edward C. Papenfuse, *In Pursuit of Profit: The Annapolis Merchants in the Era of the American Revolution, 1763-1805* (Baltimore, 1975), and *ibid.*, "Planter Behavior and Economic Opportunity in a Staple Economy," *Agricultural History* 46:2 (April 1972), 297-311. See also the outstanding study by Jacob M. Price, *France and the Chesapeake* (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1973), for an extensive discussion of Maryland and Virginia's tobacco trade with France.

"JOHN STUART SKINNER AND THE AMERICAN FARMER, 1819 - 1829: AN EARLY PROPONENT OF RURAL SPORTS" ¹

by
Jack W. Berryman
University of Washington

John Stuart Skinner, born in Calvert County, Maryland, on February 22, 1788, is best known to those specializing in military, agricultural, and political history. As an important military figure during the War of 1812 and as founder and editor of the *American Farmer* in 1819, Skinner has received considerable recognition. Politically, Skinner has been adequately credited for his accompaniment of Francis Scott Key when he wrote the Star-Spangled Banner, his role in South American privateering efforts between 1817 and 1819, and his positions as postmaster of Baltimore and Third Assistant Postmaster General of the United States. He has also been the recipient of some commendation for his career as editor and publisher of several books and magazines. ²

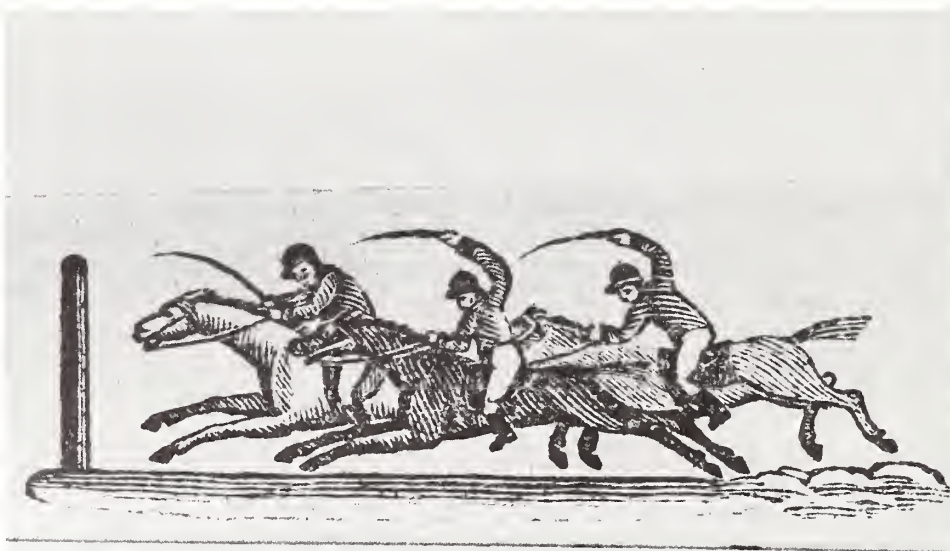
In addition to his many social and political functions, Skinner was also an avid sportsman and sport journalist. Beginning in 1819 when he initiated the *American Farmer* in Baltimore, Maryland, and continuing through 1824, Skinner published material concerning exercise, recreation, amusements, and sporting pursuits. Then, in January, 1825, Skinner made permanent his interest in sport journalism when he added a regular sport section to his weekly *American Farmer*. Through the new section, entitled the "Sporting Olio," Skinner introduced more sporting information to the readership than ever before. Finally, in 1829, Skinner sold the *American Farmer* and combined his love of sport and his editorial talents to establish and begin publishing the *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine*, America's first specialized sporting periodical. Besides his editorial ability, Skinner's contributions to the world of sport and sport journalism were numerous and unique. But, unlike the recognition bestowed upon him for his many other achievements, few historians of sport or American literature have recognized and given Skinner credit for his notable pioneering efforts in the field of sport journalism. ³

The *American Farmer* and its content was directly identified with its editor. The 1820's were the great years of the editor, or the period of "personal journalism," when the editor, owner, and publisher were usually the same person and his influence and ability to shape public opinion was unquestioned. ⁴ Consequently, many of Skinner's own travels, observations, biases, and ideas, received considerable attention. He defended the dignity of farming as an occupation and idealized the virtuous life of the yeoman farmer. For Skinner, agriculture was the fundamental occupation, farming was the most independent of all ways of life, and the life of the agrarian was happy, healthy, religious, and moral. ⁵

At \$4.00 per year and \$5.00 for guaranteed receipt, a considerable expense for the average tiller of the land, the *American Farmer* still maintained an extensive circulation. ⁶ Even in its first two years of publication, Skinner commented on "the very extensive circulation. . . among landed men, throughout the United States," ⁷ and announced it "as an established *National Work*, adapted to all the varieties of our climate. . . ." ⁸ Skinner offered



*Woodcut depicting bird shooting used to embellish the
"Sporting Olio."*



*Woodcut depicting horse racing used to embellish the
"Sporting Olio."*

a 10 percent inducement to all postmasters for acquiring subscriptions,⁹ hired agents in Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Richmond, Charleston, and Raleigh,¹⁰ and sent his assistant, William F. Redding, on a journey throughout the southern states in order to increase circulation.¹¹ The *American Farmer* reached England on an exchange basis for their agricultural journals¹² and was often advertised in the local newspapers of every state, even as far away as Edwardsville, Illinois.¹³ With such a network of agents, correspondents, and advertisements, Skinner was able to proclaim in late 1820 that “the flattering encomiums and generous support which have been bestowed on this Journal, have so far exceeded the anticipations of the Editor, and his own ideas of its merits, that he is almost ashamed to make any further appeal to the public in its behalf.”¹⁴ By 1822 and the beginning of the fourth volume, Skinner had already reprinted the first three volumes and reported that “we have never known so few discontinuances at the end of the volume. Those who decline taking it, are exceeded by the number of new subscribers. . . .”¹⁵



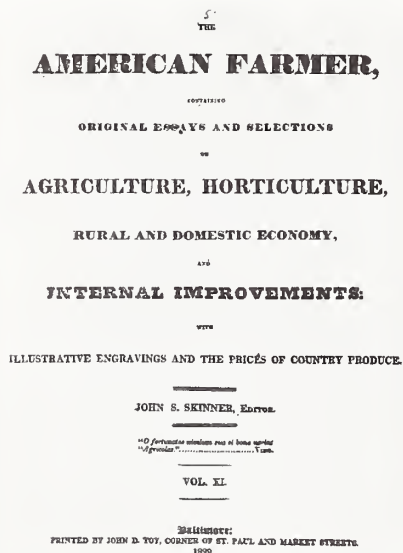
John Stuart Skinner, 1825
Courtesy of National Sporting Library,
Middleburg, Virginia.

The subscribers to the *American Farmer* represented all social classes and geographical areas, however, the bulk of Skinner's readership before 1825 was from a more elite group of agricultural society type members from Maryland and its border states, especially Virginia. In the initial year, Skinner claimed his patrons were “of all States in the Union, of all sects, and parties. --Gentlemen distinguished alike for their wealth, their

practical knowledge and their public spirit.”¹⁶ The Agricultural Society of Albemarle County Virginia thought so highly of the *American Farmer* that they presented each member a bound copy of the first volume at a cost of approximately three hundred dollars.¹⁷ Similarly, the Agricultural Society of South Carolina recommended the publication to their membership as “highly worthy” and representatives of the Agricultural Society of Eastern Shore Maryland “wished it was in the hands of every farmer in the United States.” Skinner sent “Subscription Papers” to every post office, with a space at the bottom for recording one's name, nearest post office, and amount paid.¹⁸ Some of Skinner's more well-known and faithful subscribers were Timothy Pickering, John H. Cocke,¹⁹ Thomas M. Randolph,²⁰ and Andrew Jackson.²¹ By 1823, the *American Farmer* had become so popular and respected the *Baltimore American* paid tribute to Skinner²² and by the next year, Senator James Barbour of Virginia, was proclaiming the *American Farmer* as being “among the most valuable papers circulated.” In fact, he claimed he “would surrender any other in the Union in reference to it.”²³

The success of Skinner's *American Farmer* no doubt had some affect on other aspiring editors with interests in agriculture. Solomon Southwick of Albany, New York, writing under the pseudonym of Henry Homespun, Jr., began his editorship of *The Ploughboy* on June 5, 1819. A weekly publication similar to the *American Farmer* but only costing three dollars per year, it had instant success in the northern states. Southwick's magazine went unrivaled until August 3, 1822, when Thomas G. Fessenden began the *New England Farmer* in Boston, Massachusetts. Also a weekly, it attempted to compete with the *American Farmer* and *The Ploughboy* by attracting the poorer farmers with its two dollar and fifty cent yearly subscription rate.²⁴ Although the new journals did provide some competition for Skinner, the *American Farmer* still maintained its more national and international reputation. The others were unable to contend with Skinner's massive friendship circle of noteworthy contributors and their contents illustrated this fact. Additionally, while the other editors were content and motivated only to treat purely technical agricultural matters, Skinner was deeply concerned with all aspects of the farmer's life and his interrelationships with society at large. Consequently, Skinner's propensity for exercise, recreation, and sporting pursuits, and his belief that such activities were absolutely necessary for the well-rounded American, led to their continuous appearance and gradually expanded coverage in the *American Farmer* between 1819 and 1824.

Skinner's love of fox hunting, horse racing, and dogs, and his personal feelings concerning the value of exercise and sport for health and overall well-being, were surely instrumental in his decision to include such matters in his magazine. However, Skinner was also friends with a vast number of notable Americans who were zealous sportsmen, he was knowledgeable of a growing world-wide sporting literature, he knew of the arguments concerning the role of exercise for good health, and he was constantly subjected to the latest developments in the English sporting world by his subscriptions to their magazines and by his close personal contacts with the British sporting fraternity. Some of Skinner's more notable acquaintances, such as Thomas Jefferson, Noah Webster, Benjamin Rush, Samuel H. Smith, editor of the *National Intelligencer*, and Samuel Knox of Frederick Academy in Maryland, were encouraging recreation, sport, and physical activity in the early 1800's or before. Books recommending the value of general exercise and gymnastics for health, longevity, and disease prevention, like Ricketson's, *Means of Preserving Health and Preventing Diseases*, Sinclair's, *The Code of Health and Longevity*, and Griscom's, *A Year in Europe*, which relayed knowledge concerning the gymnastic systems of Pestalozzi, Fellenberg, Guts Muths, Salzmann, Nachtegall, and Ling to America, were available before Skinner began the *American Farmer*. Gymnastics were introduced at Round Hill School in Northampton, Massachusetts, at the University of Virginia, and were practiced in at least one city gymnasium before or during 1824.²⁵



Title page for the "American Farmer."

Skinner owned or had access to all of the most popular English publications on sport and often reprinted material from them. Books such as Strutt's, *The Sports and Pastimes of the People of England*, Frost's, *Art of Swimming*, Scott's, *British Field Sports* and *Sportsman's Repository*, Lawrence's, *Philosophy and Practical Treatise on Horses*, Egan's, *Boxiana* and *Sporting Anecdotes*, Taplin's, *Sporting Dictionary*, Johnson's *Shooter's Companion*, *Sportsman's Dictionary*, and *Sportsman's Cyclopaedia*, Walton's, *Complete Angler*, and the anonymously authored *Hawker's Instructions*, were available in Baltimore and provided an English model for the American sportsmen.²⁶ Skinner was also able to keep abreast of the more current English sporting news by his subscriptions to the *Sporting Magazine or Monthly Calendar of the Transactions of the Turf, the Chase & C.*, *Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chronicle*, and the *Annals of Sporting and Fancy Gazette*. Great Britain, more than any country, influenced Skinner and other American sportsmen in the ways of sport because of our acute dependency for guns, gunpowder, dogs, horses, proper etiquette, methodology, rules, fashion, fishing equipment, and horse equipment.²⁷ Although many Americans were demanding complete independence from England throughout the first quarter of the nineteenth century, Skinner realized the necessity for maintaining the Anglo-American connection in the sporting world and ventured to inculcate his readers with the fundamental premises of an athletic movement which had been apparent in Great Britain since the early 1800's.

Skinner gradually inserted information on sports, recreation, and exercise in the first three volumes,²⁸ but beginning with the fourth, after he had become more firmly established and had acquired a substantial readership, Skinner began to devote some space in practically every issue to amusements. Sport appeared in the index for the first time in volume four and news of horses and the turf dominated sporting coverage in the fifth volume. By the time individual issues of volume six went to press in 1824, Skinner's *American Farmer* had become the only magazine in the United States for the reader interested in sporting news and information. Skinner experimented with specific sections of the journal devoted to sport in September and November, using "Sporting Intelligence" and "Sporting Calendar" as headings, but it was not until the issue of November 19th, that Skinner adopted "Rural Sports" as a permanent section title.²⁹ It endured until it was replaced by the "Sporting Olio" in the January 21st, 1825 issue.³⁰

In keeping with his own favorite sports and his avowed

devotion to the yeoman farmer, Skinner naturally preferred the country to the city and stressed sports of a rural nature. He was particularly outspoken against hunters from the city coming out to the farms and shooting at random:

...we must complain of another species of transgressors. A number of offensive idlers sally out with guns, to the great annoyance of our children and servants, in their sports and labors. The noise and the shot enter our very houses, discharges by unmanly sportsmen, upon the blue bird, thrush, and robin; any bird of song or beauty, that falls under the savage glance of these ignoble hunters.³¹

Skinner was also deeply concerned with the growth and happiness of children and believed the period of youth should be full of exercise in the country atmosphere. In 1820, he commented that he had

long been of opinion that children, instead of being restrained too much, as they often are, *especially in Town* -- ought to be indulged, and, as far as convenient, furnished with the means of exercising in all manly amusements -- such as skating, hunting, shooting, racing, & c.³²

He justified sports on the premise that "too much work makes Jack a dull boy" and that

frisking abroad in the open fields, enlivens the imagination, gives vigour to the body, and strength to the mind, and above all, it leaves no time or inclination for drinking, gaming, and other low, vulgar and degrading associations and amusements so called.³³

In reference to young men "selecting the cultivation of the soil...as their regular profession," Skinner stressed "how much more useful and honorable" it was to seek "the invigorating toils of the field, and the never tiring studies of nature, renouncing the unmanly and enervating pleasures and pursuits of the town..."³⁴ Finally, in 1824, after he had encouraged his readers to begin the sport of partridge shooting and many followed his advice, Skinner wrote that he was

glad to see an increasing taste for rural sports arising amongst the gentlemen of the country. They lead our young men of the town too, at leisure times, away from the vicious haunts of a populous city, into open fields, where no man ever contracted dyspepsia, or imbibed an ignoble passion.³⁵

For Skinner, the farming life and any activity that would lead one to the country, most notably "manly sports," went hand in hand as primary components of the finest American character.

Between 1819 and 1824, Skinner devoted most of the space allocated for sport in the *American Farmer* to material dealing with horse racing and improving the breed of horses. He had always fostered an interest in improving the breed of animals in general, and in fact, felt so strongly about the values of animals that he often spoke out against their mistreatment or cruelty.³⁶ The desire to improve the breed of horses seemed to be a natural specialization evolving from his concerns for other agriculturally related animals and it was a field of endeavor which related directly to horse racing, the favorite sport of many of his more wealthy subscribers. Skinner pioneered in the *American Farmer* with advertisements which listed personal requests to purchase horses,³⁷ recorded horses for sale,³⁸ announced upcoming racing meetings,³⁹ and registered horses at stud.⁴⁰ He was also the forerunner in the publishing of reports or listings of race results,⁴¹ individual horse's performances,⁴² stud listings and pedigrees,⁴³ and rules and regulations for race courses.⁴⁴ Lastly, Skinner was the first magazine editor to include detailed feature stories dealing with the advantages and disadvantages of horse racing, the best methods of improving the breed of horses, the detailed descriptions of important race events, and the complete rules, regulations, and governance procedures of the few state societies for the improvement of the breed of horses.⁴⁵ By the end of the year in 1824, Skinner and his *American Farmer* were rapidly becoming known and patronized by the "horse set" of ante-bellum America. He had provided the first regular and sustained outlet for sports with the horse which was truly American in its content and primary focus.

Skinner also succeeded in introducing thoroughbred horses to the competition for prizes at agricultural shows and fairs. He justified judging horses alongside cattle, hogs, and sheep on the fact that:

The horse has been the theme of admiration in all ages, and is of such great use in the affairs of Agriculture, Commerce, War and Sporting, that all laudable means, should be used to improve the breed of an animal, at once so noble, and extensively employed. We are happy to discover a spirit in our state favourable to this improvement, and no doubt, the institution of premiums by the Society, will have a most happy effect.⁴⁶

Skinner and his concerned correspondents had considerable success in convincing most people of the necessary task of improving horse breeds and perhaps more importantly, assisted in establishing the all important rationale for the building and patronage of race tracks.

All of the material printed in the *American Farmer*, however, was not so favorable to horse racing. In a letter of rebuttal to an article by John Randolph who claimed he would rather his son had seen a rider finish a race without bridle or reins than go to school for twelve months,⁴⁷ the unknown respondent stated to Skinner:

If, sir, you must, to please a part of your subscribers, fill the Farmer with tales of races between horses and genealogies of colts and fillies, their sires and grandmas, though better in sporting magazines, at least preserve your sheets pure from insults to the most sober, considerate, and feeling part of the society, the moral and religious men, who, though not ennobling horses, will be always found the best citizens, patriots, and friends of mankind.⁴⁸

Seemingly undaunted by such criticisms, Skinner continued to publish horse racing material but in November of the same year, he printed his most elaborate defense of the sport:

With respect to *Racing*, were we required to justify, by authority, our approbation of that, without going back beyond our own time or country, we would produce the names of Gen. LaFayette, the Nation's Guest, John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States, Rufus King, Senator of the U.S. [N.Y.] . . . -- with Thomas Jefferson, John Randolph, the venerable Judge Duvall, Secretaries Adams and Calhoun, and many others of the greatest and best men of the Nation.⁴⁹

He believed horse racing was

a publick exhibition of qualities and character, where all naturally desire to appear well, where laws of honour are enforced, where social feelings are cultivated, [and] where ideas are interchanged . . .⁵⁰

Skinner's position on the matter was unmistakably presented and the support for the variety of opinions expressed by his correspondents was quite obvious

throughout volumes four, five, and six. At the close of 1824, the scene was set for increased horse racing coverage in the contents of the *American Farmer*.

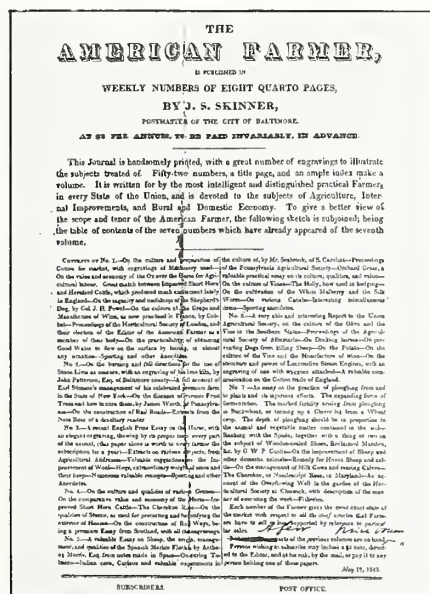
Many references to the value of exercise for health and disease prevention and allusions to the importance of swimming or bathing in mineral waters for disease cures were included in the *American Farmer*. In a letter from the well-known Benjamin Franklin to his son, which Skinner reprinted under the title of "Bodily Disease," the elder Franklin noted: "The resolution you have taken to use more exercise is extremely proper; and I hope you will steadily perform it. It is of the greatest importance to prevent diseases. . ." ⁵¹ Franklin also stressed the values of walking, walking up and down stairs, and using the dumb bell to quicken the pulse. Other articles recommended that everyone master "the art of swimming," ⁵² advocated bathing in sea water, ⁵³ urged individuals to drink water from a multitude of available medicinal springs, ⁵⁴ and provided geographic listings for hot and cold mineral springs throughout the eastern states. ⁵⁵ Farming was naturally viewed as the most healthy human pursuit since it was believed

health and strength are the natural consequences of that degree of exercise, and labour, habits and local situation which pertains to the life of the farmer. . . his labour and exercise secure him from the painful and disgusting diseases of the rich, and indolent. . .⁵⁶

Skinner provided his own personal statement concerning health and exercise in his introduction to an article on "Man -- Training -- Described," which he reprinted from an English publication:

As most of our readers have seen accounts of the extraordinary performances of Pugilists and Pedestrians in England, they may be entertained with a description of the previous *training*, which is practised, to qualify a man to fight for an hour with unabating courage, and exertion, or to walk one hundred miles in twenty-four hours. . . One would suppose that whatever mode of living would augment the elasticity and power of the mind and body, would, of course, ensure to both, the soundest state of health -- we accordingly recommend the trial of the training process of all our gouty, rheumatic, bilious, dyspeptic and hypochondriac friends. . .⁵⁷

The unknown author recommended sporting activities “such as cricket, bowls, throwing quoits, & c.” in addition to exercises, an important consideration when one realizes that in 20th century America, sports were substituted almost wholly for any type of so-called “undirected” exercises.⁵⁸ In a similar manner, the author of “General Rules for the Restoration and Preservation of Health,” reprinted by Skinner from the English publication, *Tegg’s Book of Utility*, suggested fencing, swimming, skating, tennis, bowles, quoits, golf, and horseback riding as “laudable exercises.” He also emphasized the idea that good health and physical fitness would prepare a person for life’s emergencies, one of the most often used rationales for physical education and general sport programs.⁵⁹ By publicizing the interrelationships between exercise and good health, specifically exercise in the form of sporting contests, Skinner was able to lay the important groundwork for the utilitarian values of sport necessary to cope with a long held American puritanical-related distrust of any activity deemed frivolous or leading to a mispense of valuable time.



Subscription Paper for the “American Farmer,” May 12, 1825. (Courtesy of Duke University Library)

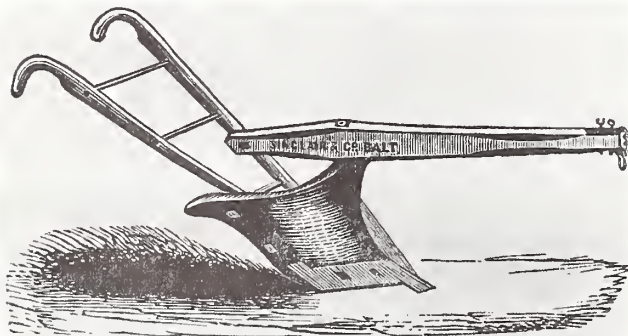
Skinner’s *American Farmer* included some mention and coverage of other sports and games, but almost without exception, the material was reprinted from a New York or English paper. The readers were told of America’s first “aeronautic ascension” in a balloon,⁶⁰ they learned of an international chess match between the London Chess Club and the Paris Chess Club,⁶¹ they were introduced to the sport of coursing,⁶² and they received Benjamin Franklin’s thoughts on an activity which some

classified as a sport but what Franklin called “the murderous practice of duelling. . . .”⁶³ Skinner included numerous accounts of pedestrianism contests where the winner was determined by the distance walked or run and the total elapsed time. All of the reports were from English publications however, since the sport had not yet developed into its competitive form in America.⁶⁴ Pigeon matches, or the sport of shooting live pigeons as they were released from a trap, received substantial coverage, but again, all of the reports were derived from the press of Great Britain.⁶⁵ A story devoted to pugilism was reprinted from an English paper but like pedestrianism, the sport of boxing in 1819 had not evolved into a recognized American pastime.⁶⁶ Finally, crew racing was introduced to the *American Farmer* readers in 1824, when Skinner reprinted an article from a New York paper concerning a contest between the “boatmen of Whitehall” and the “mariners of England.” Similarly, like many of the other sports first receiving coverage because of Skinner’s editing policies, crew had not yet matured as a popular American sport.⁶⁷ Without much doubt, Skinner was on the vanguard of a movement which began to introduce the English athletic revolution to the American people. For many individuals, and specifically the more rural population who could not afford or had no desire to subscribe to British publications or one of the large city dailies, their first introduction to the ways and means of a variety of organized sports probably came from the pages of the *American Farmer*.

Skinner experimented with a special sport section of the *American Farmer* in the latter issues of 1824 by trying names like “Sporting Intelligence,” “Sporting Calendar,” and “Rural Sports,” and continued his efforts into the early issues of 1825.⁶⁸ He utilized “Sports of the Plough”⁶⁹ to identify a section in the issue of January 7th, but finally decided upon “Sporting Olio” as the permanent sport section title in the January 21st edition.⁷⁰ “Olio,” meaning “a miscellaneous mixture or collection,”⁷¹ was an excellent choice of titles since it allowed Skinner the necessary latitude to cover all of the many sport topics in one column. The regular appearance of the “Sporting Olio” immediately made the *American Farmer* the first American magazine to treat sporting endeavors on a steady basis and placed Skinner at the forefront of sport journalism in the United States. With the possible exception of a few city newspapers, the “Sporting Olio” is the best available record of sporting pursuits during this important formative period of American sports. The column mirrored contemporary sporting interests and served as a major inducement for increased

participation in a variety of sports.

By 1829, the *American Farmer*, the *Ploughboy*, and the *New England Farmer*, were joined by the *New York Farmer and American Gardener's Magazine* and the *Southern Agriculturist* in the area of specialized agricultural periodicals. However, the *American Farmer* maintained its reputation as the only truly national magazine in both focus and circulation. It lost some of its subscribers in states better served by the more localized new publications but acquired an increasingly noticeable readership in areas not yet having their own farming journal. In 1825, Skinner boasted of "the very flattering increase of patronage," especially those of "Known standing in their respective states,"⁷² and throughout the next year, encouraged his subscribers to exercise their "influence to extend its circulation,"⁷³ acquired additional agents,⁷⁴ and identified his excitement for its circulation "through every state and territory in the Union."⁷⁵ By January of 1829, Skinner, "under a sense of particular gratification," remarked "that the demand for the *American Farmer*, within a few months past, has been more than usually flattering as to the number and character of the new subscribers."⁷⁶ Finally, at the close of the tenth volume in March, 1829, Skinner was able to brag that "the accession of between 2 and 300 subscribers, coming from every state in the Union, within the last year, is a cheering proof that our efforts have not been fruitless."⁷⁷



PATUXENT PLOW.

Illustration from the "American Farmer—Advertiser Section 1," (1860).

(Courtesy, National Agricultural Library)

Besides the addition of the "Sporting Olio," the *American Farmer's* general contents took a different form in the years between 1825 and 1829. In 1827, Skinner stated that the ideal make-up of one issue was "one half, or four pages, devoted to practical Agriculture; the remainder to Internal Improvements, Rural and Domestic Economy; selections for

housekeepers and female readers, and Natural History and Rural Sports."⁷⁸ The individual issues of Volume 11, Skinner's last, each included nine major sections: Agriculture; Horticulture; Rural Economy; Internal Improvement; Ladies' Department; Sporting Olio; Miscellaneous; The Farmer; and, Baltimore Prices Current. Because of such an eclectic nature, newspapers and magazines from all geographic areas "borrowed" freely from the *American Farmer*.

Although Skinner had the new "Sporting Olio" section, the actual sporting content did not vary drastically in the first five or six issues. Continued emphasis was placed upon horse racing and breeding, bird shooting, the values of exercise and sport for health and disease prevention, and the necessity of thoroughbred pedigrees for horses and dogs. Skinner, however, did add a new dimension when he included engravings representing the contents of each "Sporting Olio." Scenes illustrating the chase,⁷⁹ a horse race,⁸⁰ fishing,⁸¹ and bird shooting,⁸² appeared at the top of the column on different occasions during its initial year. Illustrations had been used sparingly in the earlier years of the *American Farmer*, but Skinner did not hesitate to spend the extra money for his sporting column. Throughout the remainder of Skinner's editorship, with few exceptions, the only engravings to be included dealt with sport and depicted either a horse or dog.⁸³

The fact that Skinner initiated the "Sporting Olio" and actively solicited sporting information to publish in it, is proof enough of his desires to encourage American sporting practices. But, after 1824, he also interspersed personal inducements for sports. He referred to fox hunting or "the chase," as "that most exhilarating and delightful of all rural exercises"⁸⁴ and voiced his gratification

to learn that an attempt is making to form a club, for keeping a large pack of the best hounds for hunting during the approaching seasons. Looking to the means of the liberal spirit of the gentlemen who have taken it in hand, we cannot doubt of its success; and of all exercises, none can be esteemed more and healthful.⁸⁵

On another occasion, after publishing a fox hunting letter from "Amateur," Skinner added that he would "be delighted with the opportunity of witnessing similar sport with the same party. . . ."⁸⁶ His propensity for rural sports was well known by his readership since Skinner often published very convincing arguments in their favor. In May 1826, Skinner

wrote:

The season is at hand for making up parties for occasional excursions to the country, 'where blooming health exerts her gentle reign.' How much better to repair to the fields, the woods, or to the neighbouring streams, at the close of the week of hard study or sedentary labour, and there spend the afternoon in gunning, fishing, swimming, bowling at nine-pins, pitching quoits, & c., according to one's fancy and the season, than to abuse whole days in *militia mustering!*, frequenting gaming-houses, whiskey drinking, & c. ⁸⁷

Three years later, Skinner appended a note to an article on "Sea-Shore Sport In New Jersey" stating that it would "give the city and sunshine sportsman some idea of the zeal of men of 'muscle,' and of the astonishing fatigue and exposure under which it sustains them, with benefit to their health." ⁸⁸ Skinner often referred to horseback riding as "a healthy and beautiful exercise" and noted that it was "pleasing to see it becoming fashionable with young ladies and young gentlemen of leisure. . . ." ⁸⁹ When a law in Albany, New York banished nine-pins to the suburbs because of its disturbing characteristics, Skinner replied in his sporting column that "the suppression of one open gentlemanly and manly amusement is sure to give rise to two gross vices--the more vulgar and pernicious for being the more concealed." ⁹⁰ Finally, Skinner also included a variety of more subtle encouragements for sport participation. He published a description of Fellenberg's school at Hofwyl which stressed the value of horsemanship and gymnastic exercises ⁹¹ and acquired a brace of setter dogs with pedigrees for a reader. ⁹² He also published poetry which referred to the joy, healthfulness, and manly exercise to be derived from sport participation. ⁹³ Lastly, Skinner advertised the free use of hounds for interested sportsmen to utilize for breeding purposes or to learn of their use and abilities. ⁹⁴

The majority of correspondence Skinner selected for publication dealt with the establishment of a convincing rationale for sport participation. Most evident, were the diversionary characteristics of sport and its numerous health giving qualities. A reader writing in August 1825 concerning "the healthful tendency of rural sports and the invigorating effect of field exercises on mind and body," believed life was

at best but a dull pilgrimage: without varieties to amuse us on the way it would be insupportable --and he is the happiest fellow who is most

susceptible of pleasing emotions from the greatest variety of sources--whether they be occasionally with his dog and gun, his horse and hound, his flute and fiddle. . . provided they take him off not too much from the main business of life, and provided further, that they are not of demoralizing or enervating tendency. ⁹⁵

Pedestrianism was claimed to be "the best species of exercise" and "people of all ranks" were encouraged "to adopt the best method of performing either short or long journeys, by imitating the *gait* and *manner*" of the walkers. It was so highly recommended because

the appetite and perspiration are promoted; the body is kept in proper temperament; the mind is enlivened; the motion of the lungs is facilitated; and the rigidity of the legs, arising from too much sitting is relieved. The most troublesome hysteric hypochondriacal complaints have been frequently cured by perseverance in walking. ⁹⁶

Skinner was quick to publish the observations of a physician who claimed

"the follower of hounds is *on the road to health*, although he may not be in search of it. . . . The doctor reiterated that he had frequently seen broken-up spirits and apparently reduced constitutions restored to strength and cheerfulness, by horse exercise, when almost every other method of recovery had been tried without advantage. To many of my nervous and bilious patients, I have recommended it as almost my sole prescription--'to live on horseback.' ⁹⁷

Probably the most thorough and well developed rationale for any sport appeared in a selection by Skinner entitled "Pleasures and Advantages of Hunting." The anonymous author claimed:

Hunting trains up youth to the use of manly exercises in their riper age. . . . Exercise herein preserveth health, and increaseth the strength and activity. . . . It neither remits the mind to sloth nor softness, nor hardens it to inhumanity; but rather inclines men to good acquaintance and generous society. . . . Nothing doth more recreate the mind, strengthen the limbs, whet the stomach, and cheer up the spirit when it is heavy, dull, and overcast with gloomy cares. . . . ⁹⁸

Other correspondents wrote concerning the importance of fishing for relaxation and amusement,⁹⁹ the qualities of fox hunting for producing “stronger and more athletic men, and better cavalry. . . ,”¹⁰⁰ and the necessity of “the studious and the grave” to suspend their inquiries, and descend from the regions of science” in order “to excel in those innocent amusements which require our activity. . . .”¹⁰¹



REESE & CO'S PHOSPHO-PERUVIAN (OR MANIPULATED) GUANO WORKS.

Illustration from the “*American Farmer*, 1” (July 1859) :33.

(Courtesy, National Agricultural Library)

A personal love for sports of all kinds and a belief in the values of exercise, led Skinner to actively promote participation for women and children. He initiated a special “Ladies’ Department” in 1825¹⁰² because the majority of periodicals were only “dedicated to the amusement and business of men. . . .”¹⁰³ Although the section for women contained hints on cooking, sewing, child rearing, and other typical “womanly” tasks, it was also devoted to sport on many occasions. In one article, “A Whisper to a Newley Married Pair--A Whisper to Wife,” the author attempted to instruct the wife concerning her husband’s sporting desires:

Is he fond of fishing, fowling, & c.? When those amusements do not interfere with business or matters of consequence, what harm can result from them? Strive then to enter into his feelings with regard to the pleasure which they seem to afford him, and endeavor to feel

interested in his harmless accounts and chat respecting them. Let *his* favourite dog be your favourite also;¹⁰⁴

Most of the contents however, were directly related to encouraging more women to actively exercise. The author of an article published in 1827 believed:

Nearly the same exercises, with the exception of wrestling, cricket, quoits, and those sports properly termed ‘athletic,’ which are proper for boys, may be recommended for young girls. Trundling a hoop, battledore, trap-ball, and every game which can exercise both the legs and the arms, and at the same time the muscles of the body, should be encouraged. . . .¹⁰⁵

Another article, discussing the quantity of exercise for females, alluded to the fact that “no absurdity is greater than that which associates female beauty with great delicacy of body and debility of constitution. . . .” The author continued by claiming that:

Exercise only can fully unfold the muscular system in both sexes: it knits well the joints, makes them clean and small; increases the flexibility of every moveable organ; confers activity of body and cheerfulness of spirits: it is, therefore, not merely necessary for the perfection of the corporeal frame, but also for its preservation.¹⁰⁶

Other articles pointed out “that the restraints imposed upon young women in society, ought under no circumstances, to prevent such exercises from being daily taken as will bring every muscle of the body into action,”¹⁰⁷ and at least one individual believed “the bodily exercises of the two sexes ought, in fact, to be the same.”¹⁰⁸ Of all the exercises recommended, horseback riding topped the list, mainly because of its variety of inherent qualities:

Riding is a most salutary exercise for young women, from its engaging many of the muscles of the body, as well as those of the arms and thighs; and from the succession of changes of respirable air which the rapid progression of the body through an extensive space, in a short time, causes to be conveyed to the lungs.¹⁰⁹

The need for sports participation and exercise for children also received attention, usually in the “Ladies’ Department.” Skinner clearly stated his feelings on the subject and set an example by publishing a personal account of his own family.

If we had twenty sons, we should wish them all to excel, first in *honourable and virtuous principles*; then in useful knowledge and polite accomplishments, in the art of swimming, skating, riding, shooting, and such like sources of innocent amusement, as have a tendency to strengthen the body and recreate the mind; all this we pray for and inculcate upon them a detestation of the bottle, the bar room, the dice-box and the cockpit, to some or all which young men are too apt to betake themselves, if not familiar with, and fond of the gentlemanly exercises and accomplishments that carry them by the light of heaven into open air. . . 110

Others stressed the importance of instructing youth in sport skills at an early age, especially ice skating and swimming.¹¹¹ Finally, the majority of authors agreed that “no child should be debarred” from “exercise and free use of pure air.”¹¹²

The largest portion of sport-related material included in the *American Farmer* dealt with horse pedigrees and horse racing. Skinner listed pedigrees of horses, advertised horses at stud, and printed articles on the values and characteristics of blooded horses. In relationship to racing, thought to be the only true test of the breed, Skinner published announcements for races, results of races, methods for training racers, techniques for racing, and guidelines for choosing horses for the race course. As the newly elected Vice President of the Maryland Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Horses in 1825, Skinner devoted particular attention to his home course, Canton, in the columns of the “Sporting Olio.”¹¹³ In an attempt to justify horse racing and to reach the more conservative farmers who read the *American Farmer*, Skinner explained that

the Canton course is intended to afford a *standard* to measure the powers of the most promising colts which may be reared in this state, and to give to their skilful and enterprising breeders the means of establishing the characters of such as have powers to *excel*. . . . To use an illustration familiar to farmers, the standard erected on the turf is as necessary to cleanse, and purify, and perpetuate the breed of fine horses, as is the sieve to winnow and separate the chaff and other offal from sound grain.¹¹⁴

However, Skinner’s argument did not go uncontested. In keeping with his own personal desire to honestly represent his readership, Skinner published in a subsequent number, a rebuttal entitled “Racing, Recommendation of, as a means of improving the breed of horses--condemned.” The author, “A Farmer,” noted:

In your last paper, I read, with some degree of surprise, a recommendation of racing as a means of improving the breed of *horses*. What next? Shall we have boxing for the improvement of *men*, and *cock-fighting* for the improvement of *poultry*? To say the least of it, such a scheme does not appear to me to suit the columns of a paper devoted to agriculture, rural economy and useful arts. . . . Your paper is calculated to be highly useful to the great body of the people, the farmers of the United States. Let them, their wives and children, remain at home. Do not, I beseech you, invite them to the *race course*. . . 115

Although the unknown author seemed to make a valid point, Skinner remained undaunted by the piece and headed toward an overt attempt to support and promote the cause of the thoroughbred horse.

Skinner’s support for the “sport of kings” assisted in promoting a growing national and intersectional interest in the sport. Competition evolved from the once popular local challenges to contests between local and state jockey clubs, intersectional match races between horses representing the North and the South, and international contests between horses from Great Britain and horses from the United States. A portion of the popularity and interest in horse racing can genuinely be attributed to the sincere desires of breeders to improve the overall qualities of the blooded horse. However, pride in one form or another, also played an important role in the pronounced fervor over horse racing after 1825. There was national pride on the line every time an American horse’s time was compared to the times from abroad. Regional and sectional pride, most pronounced between North and South (New York vs. Virginia and Maryland) and East and West (Virginia vs. Kentucky), was a dominant factor in stimulating the building of tracks and numerous match races. Club pride, the concern of every member of every jockey club, led to course improvements, new innovations in racing procedure, and larger purses, all in an attempt to surpass and better a competing club. And finally, individual pride, the one most important motivation for breeders and trainers, stirred intensified experimentation

From these results, it is evident that the use of the proposed method is effective in reducing the number of iterations required for convergence. The proposed method is also effective in reducing the number of iterations required for convergence.

...and upon Britain's youth: not so in crucial as

SPORTING OLIO.

[illegible]

He _____ runs the purple breath
Or haled stable, where from field to field
The sounding conveyers urge their labouring flight;
Es-jor amid the rising cloud to pour
The god's unerring thunder."

In undertaking to get up the *Sporting Magazine*, the Editor confesses he is urged in some degree by the same sort of impulse, and he hopes black-letter exhibition that prompted him to commence the *American*

CONCURRENCE.
The Sporting Magazine will be published monthly. Each number will consist of about 50 pages, and be embellished with beautiful engravings—price, 6s. per annum, to be paid on the receipt of the first number.

with the hope of proving their personal methods and procedures as being the best. Skinner's columns in the *American Farmer* both mirrored and supported these important developments. As the only trusted and respected medium for news concerning horse racing up until 1829, the *American Farmer* was instrumental in the development of a sound platform for American thoroughbred racing.

The one sport that met all of Skinner's criteria for a manly, invigorating, and healthful pastime, was fox hunting. Specifically, it utilized the horse and the hound, and was conducted in the rural areas and open fields, far enough away from the dangers Skinner associated with the urban environment. Fox hunting, like so many other sports and sport related endeavors in the vicinity of Baltimore and Washington, owes its revival and subsequent growth to Skinner and the *American Farmer*. He encouraged, promoted, and assisted sportsmen to take up the sport and made available and interchange of news from various hunting fields which tended to inspire local pride. Skinner was specifically instrumental in the Baltimore and Washington Hunts, by acquiring dogs for them, printing accounts of their chases, and urging better organizational procedures.¹¹⁶ He also advertised the sale of dogs and upcoming hunts, and stimulated an interest in improving the breed of hounds. Finally, Skinner displayed a constant concern for improving the caliber of horses used in "the hunt" and "the chase." With the exception of horsemen, fox hunters were the biggest supporters of the "Sporting Olio" and regularly contributed accounts of their outdoor pursuits. Usually, Skinner had taken part in the chase described in the article and utilized his editorial privilege by adding a personal note to the piece.¹¹⁷

With the exception of pedestrianism, which received much coverage in the *American Farmer* because of its popularity in England, other sports common to the period received only sporadic coverage.¹¹⁸ Stories, reports, and explanations concerning the following sports and games were mentioned at least once: rowing, fishing, steeple chase, boxing, swimming, hawking or falconry, quoits, chess, velocipede, sailing, nine pins, archery, and ice skating.¹¹⁹ Various forms of animal fighting, such as dog fighting, camel fighting, bull baiting, and ratting, received some space in the *American Farmer* despite Skinner's abhorrence for such activities.¹²⁰ Additionally, Skinner included a few references to special athletic-like contests like: horses vs. men in racing; horse leaping contest; backing-up a

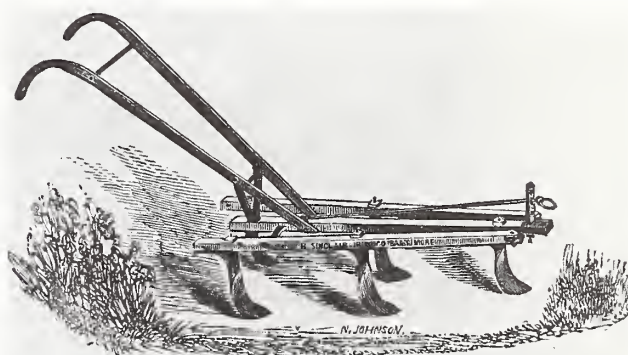
horse; backward and forward horse racing; and, a snake hunt.¹²¹

By 1828, the "Sporting Olio" had become one of the most popular sections of the *American Farmer* and was supported by a substantial group of American sportsmen. However, the immense task of preparing the weekly publication and doing all of the other necessary work as editor and owner, besides his postal duties, led Skinner to seek a partner and half owner. In July, Skinner published a notice entitled "The American Farmer--One half for Sale" and attached a short statement saying:

. . .the correspondence connected with it has become so burdensome that he is desirous of selling one half of it to a partner, who will himself, or by a trusty agent, keep the books and conduct the business part of the correspondence. . . . The Editorship to be retained by the subscriber, who wishes in hours of leisure from official duties, to give it increased attention.¹²²

Skinner evidently did not receive any offers, because in February 1829, he printed a similar advertisement:

For sale an interest in the 'American Farmer' establishment. A certain and handsome result would be guaranteed to the purchaser, and, with a view to the still greater extension of the paper, it would be preferable, though not indispensable, that he should reside, and act as agent, in one of the states south of the Potomac.¹²³



DOUBLE POINTED CULTIVATOR.

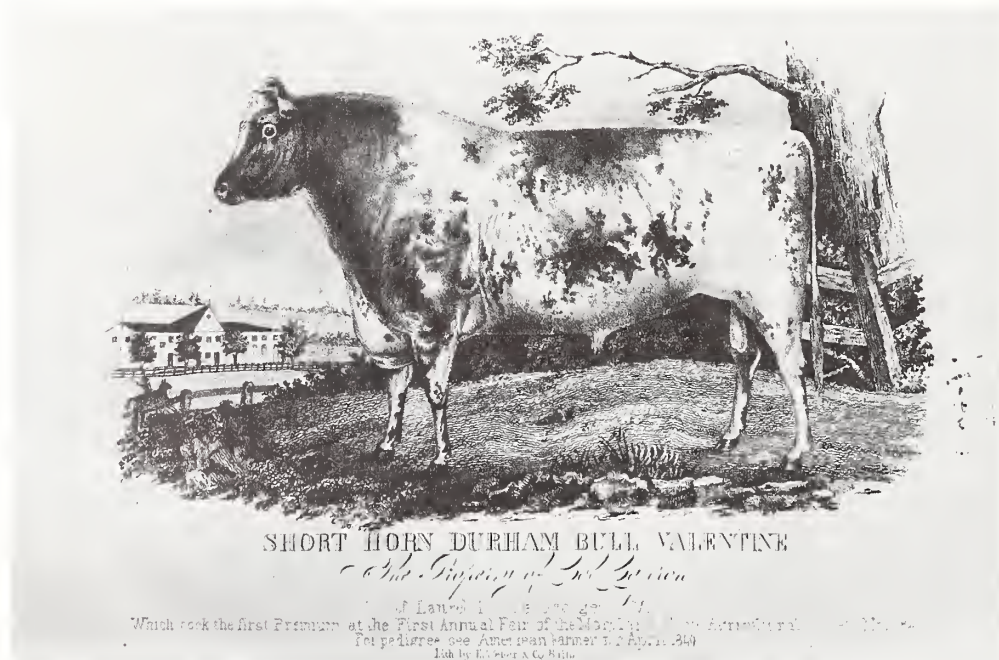
Illustration from the "American Farmer--Advertiser Section 1," (1860).

(Courtesy, National Agricultural Library)

Then, without any further mention of selling a part of the *American Farmer*, Skinner announced in the last issue of August in the "Sporting Olio," the prospectus for his new *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine*.¹²⁴ Whether the idea of initiating a new sporting magazine was the reason for Skinner's desire to part with the *American Farmer* is not known. But, regardless of his previous desires, Skinner maintained his editorship of the *American Farmer* and edited the first number of the *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine* for its September 1829 debut. He maintained dual editorship duties until August 1830, when he sold the *American Farmer* to I. Irvine Hitchcock Co. of Baltimore.¹²⁵

Skinner's contributions to the overall rise of American sport during his editorship of the *American Farmer*, were both diverse and provocative. By 1829, he had evolved a philosophy and rationale for sport, which served to diminish previous prejudices towards sport and at the same time, illustrated the inherent values of sport participation. Skinner successfully used the opinions and testimonials of famous men both past and present to assist his efforts in identifying the wholesomeness of the sporting life. Basically, sport was characterized as possessing the power to promote good health and prevent disease, produce sound and respectable morals, create a reputable character, and encourage pleasure and enjoyment. Skinner published articles by physicians who recommended all types of "open air

sports" or "field sports," as cures and preventive measures for lung trouble, dyspepsia, and rheumatism. A strong case was made for "rural sports" and their value for removing interest from pernicious "city sports," like drinking, gaming, and smoking. Similarly, outdoor sports, where the participant was brought into close contact with nature, were shown to have a softening influence on one's temper, disposition, and overall feelings toward mankind. Likewise, the pleasure and joy derived from sport participation, was identified as an important contributor to the diversion and relaxation of the mind, necessary to diminish the worries and concerns of the daily routine of life itself. Skinner also promoted a general concern for the selective breeding of animals, particularly horses and dogs; stimulated an interest and appreciation for the natural history of America, especially native animals; kept the sporting world informed of the nature and progress of American sport; roused rivalry and competition in sports which led to formal organizations, intersectional contests, and international challenges; and, illustrated to others in journalism, editing, and publishing, the viability of sport for professional literary affairs. Based upon his numerous original and fundamental contributions to the idea and role of sport in American society, Skinner must be given no small amount of credit for the rapid ascendance of sport to a position of significance in the last half of the nineteenth century.



Frontispiece from the "American Farmer 5," (1849). (Courtesy, National Agricultural Library)

NOTES

1. The following article is derived from the author's Ph.D. dissertation, "John Stuart Skinner and Early American Sport Journalism, 1819-1835," done at the University of Maryland under the direction of Professors Marvin H. Eyster and James B. Gilbert.
2. For example see: Laura Bornholdt, *Baltimore and Early Pan-Americanism: A Study in the Background of the Monroe Doctrine* (Smith College Studies in History, 34: Northampton, Massachusetts, 1949); Harold A. Bierck, Jr., "Spoils, Soils, and Skinner," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 49 (March 1954), 21-40 and (June 1954), 143-155; Lucretia Ramsey Bishko, "The Agricultural Society of Albemarle and John S. Skinner: An Enduring Friendship," *Magazine of Albemarle County History*, 31 (1973), 76-113; Harold T. Pinkett, "A Forgotten Patriot," *Social Studies*, 40 (December 1949), 354-355; Harold T. Pinkett, "The American Farmer, A Pioneer Agricultural Journal, 1819-1834," *Agricultural History*, 24 (July 1950), 146-151; and, Mrs. Weems Ridout, "Col. John Stewart [sic] Skinner," *Patriotic Marylander*, 1 (June 1915), 49-54.
3. Only three publications have dealt in any detail with Skinner's sporting life and his sport journalism endeavors. See: Harry Worcester Smith, *A Sporting Family of the Old South: With Which is Included Reminiscences of An Old Sportsman by Frederick Gustavus Skinner* (Albany, New York: J. B. Lyon Co., 1936); John R. Betts, "Sporting Journalism in Nineteenth-Century America," *American Quarterly*, 5 (1953), 39-56; and, Ernest R. Gee, *Early American Sporting Books, 1834-1844* (New York: Derrydale Press, 1929).
4. This phenomenon is explained in Lucy M. Salmon, *The Newspaper and the Historian* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1923), pp. 250-251.
5. Richard H. Abbott, "The Agricultural Press Views the Yeoman: 1819-1859," *Agricultural History*, 42 (January 1968), 35-48.
6. *AF*, 1:1 (April 2, 1819), p. 6 and *AF*, 2:4 (April 21, 1820), p. 32. Skinner, like all other magazine editors at the time, had trouble collecting the money from his subscribers and lost a considerable amount when the magazine was not claimed at local post offices. See: "To Delinquent Subscribers," *AF*, 2:36 (December 1, 1820), p. 288; "The Editor To His Patrons," *AF*, 4:52 (March 21, 1823), p. 416; and, "All Postmasters," *AF*, 2:2 (April 7, 1820), p. 15.
7. *AF*, 1:25 (September 17, 1819), p. 200.
8. *AF*, 2:4 (April 21, 1820), p. 32.
9. *AF*, 1:1 (April 2, 1819), p. 6. Skinner and other postmasters like him, also received a commission of fifty percent of the postage on each newspaper, magazine, and pamphlet received in his post office. The Postage Act of 1793, reduced the postage rates on magazines and newspapers and permitted every printer to send one of their papers or magazines to every other printer in the United States free of postage. Normal magazine and newspaper postage was determined on distance sent and number of sheets, which explains why so many publications utilized the largest pages possible. For more information on postal matters, see: Simon N.D. North, *History and Present Condition of the Newspaper and Periodical Press of the United States with a Catalogue of the Publications of the Census Year*, in Volume 8, Tenth Census (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1884), pp. 137-149 and James M. Lee, *History of American Journalism* (New York: Garden City Publishing Co., 1923), pp. 161-162.
10. *AF*, 4:39 (December 20, 1822), p. 312 and *AF*, 5:1 (March 28, 1823), p. 8.

11. "Complete Sets of 'The American Farmer'," *AF*, 4:42 (January 10, 1823), p. 336.
12. *AF*, 2:30 (October 20, 1820), p. 239.
13. Skinner ran constant advertisements in the *Edwardsville Spectator*. Richard Bardolph, *Agricultural Literature*. . . , p. 54, note no. 25. Also see Stevenson W. Fletcher, *Pennsylvania Agriculture and Country Life, 1640-1840* (2 vols.; Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1950), volume 1, p. 357 and Hubert G. Schmidt, *Agriculture in New Jersey: A Three-Hundred-Year History* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1973), p. 107.
14. *AF*, 2:36 (December 1, 1820), p. 288.
15. *AF*, 4:4 (April 19, 1822), p. 32.
16. *AF*, 1:25 (September 17, 1819), p. 199.
17. Bishko, "A Spanish Stallion. . .," p. 169.
18. "Subscription Paper, for the American Farmer," April 3, 1820, Manuscript Division, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Virginia.
19. William F. Redding (for J. S. Skinner) to John H. Cocke, August 21, 1819, Cocke Papers, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Virginia. Similar correspondence concerning receipts for subscriptions on April 10, 1820, February 22, 1821, and April 5, 1823.
20. Thomas M. Randolph to J. S. Skinner, December 29, 1819, General Collection, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Virginia.
21. William F. Redding (for J. S. Skinner), Receipt to General A. Jackson, August 15, 1823, Andrew Jackson Papers (Reel 32), Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
22. *BA*, (December 25, 1823), p. 2.
23. James Barbour to John S. Skinner, June 16, 1824, James Barbour Letters, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Virginia.
24. Gilbert M. Tucker, *American Agricultural Periodicals: An Historical Sketch* (Albany, New York: By the author, 1909), pp. 71-80 and Paul W. Gates, *The Farmer's Age: Agriculture, 1815-1860* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1960), pp. 341-344.
25. John R. Betts, "Mind and Body in Early American Thought," *Journal of American History*, 54 (March 1968), 787-805 and John R. Betts, "American Medical Thought On Exercise As The Road To Health, 1820-1860," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, (March-April 1971), 138-152.
26. Uhler, "Literary Taste and Culture. . .," pp. 112-113. By 1824, a variety of sports were being patronized in the Baltimore area: horse racing, hunting, fishing, ice skating, swimming, cock fighting, quoits, bowling, shooting at marks, and bull baiting, among others. See the report of Joseph Pickering, an English farmer who came to Baltimore in 1824, in Semmes, *Baltimore As Seen By* . . . , pp. 74-81.
27. Jennie Holliman, *American Sports (1785-1835)* (Durham, N.C.: Seeman Press, 1931), pp. 5-10.
28. The first volume included a story from an English newspaper entitled "The Velocipede, or Swift Walker" and was accompanied by a woodcut depicting a man riding the new vehicle. *AF*, 1:9 (May 28, 1819), p. 69.

Other articles dealt with "Bodily Disease," "On The Art of Swimming," "Mr. Guille's Ascension," "On Duelling," and "Aerial Combat" (pugilism). See: *AF*, 1:19 (August 6, 1819), pp. 151 and 152; 20 (August 13, 1819), pp. 158 and 159; and, 23 (September 3, 1819), p. 184. An advertisement for the "Easton Jockey Club Races," the first mention of horse racing, also appeared in this volume. *AF*, 1:25 (September 17, 1819), p. 200. The second and third volumes had a few advertisements for horse sales, horses at stud, and desires to purchase "blooded horses." *AF*, 2:36 (December 1, 1820), p. 288; 48 (February 23, 1821), p. 384; and, 3:3 (April 13, 1821), p. 24. An excerpt from Cobbett's *Year's Residence in America* entitled "Rural Sports" and short reports on pedestrianism, "a pidgeon [sic] match," and grouse shooting reprinted from the *London Farmer's Journal*, completed the sport's coverage. *AF*, 2:2 (April 7, 1820), pp. 11-13 and *AF*, 3:35 (November 23, 1821), p. 278.

29. Skinner was probably influenced by his own love of "rural sports" and the popularity of an earlier article excerpted from *Cobbett's Year's Residence in America* which he titled "Rural Sports." In reference to the article covering too much space, Skinner replied that "we sometimes make selections of this sort, which though not immediately connected with agriculture, still they are of solid and useful character, conveying good hints on morals, education, & c. & c." *AF*, 2:2 (April 7, 1820), p. 15. By 1824, and the November 12th issue, it was obvious that Skinner had become more involved with sport and was willing to devote more space to its edification. He claimed that he had "long been of opinion that Field Sports of almost every kind are worthy of encouragement. . . . There is a time to work, and a time to play, and every boy knows that he can work the better for playing a little." Skinner knew that "a very spirited effort has been lately made to revive the Sports of the Turf. . . with an express view to improvement of the breed of horses. . . ." "In the mean time," Skinner said, "the spirit for such amusements is reviving in the Country, and therefore without in any manner neglecting the great objects and duties of this journal, we shall give a portion of it to record the result of trials of speed, as well as of skill, in other sports. . . ." *AF*, 6:34 (November 12, 1824), p. 270. The special section on "Rural Sports" followed in the next issue and shortly after, Skinner announced that "gentlemen are invited to send contributions for the space allotted to Rural Sports and Sports of the Turf. *AF*, 6:38 (December 10, 1824), p. 304.
30. Specific information concerning the "Sporting Olio" and the *American Farmer* from 1825 to 1829 will follow.
31. "The Country to the City," *AF*, 1:7 (May 14, 1819), p. 52.
32. *AF*, 2:2 (April 7, 1820), p. 15.
33. Ibid.
34. "Notice To Subscribers," *AF*, 5 (1823), p. viii.
35. "Partridge Shooting," *AF*, 6:34 (November 12, 1824), p. 271.
36. For information on Skinner's desire to improve the breed of animals in general, see: "On the Principles of Improving the Breed of Domestic Animals," *AF*, 2:40 (December 29, 1820), pp. 316-318; "A Stock Farm," *AF*, 2:51 (March 16, 1821), p. 404; "Brief Notice of the male animals already procured, and now ready for service, on the Editor's Stock Farm . . .," *AF*, 3:3 (April 13, 1821), p. 24; and, "For Sale or Auction," *AF*, 5:32 (October 31, 1823), p. 256. In a rebuttal to hunters shooting any wild animal or bird, Skinner remarked; "This, too, at a season when every murdered bird leaves a helpless brood to perish with famine in the nest. Scarceley the swallow, or a sparrow, can escape, and in a little while, nothing will be left to animate the country. . . ." "The Country to the City," *AF*, 1:7 (May 14, 1819), p. 52; see also, Skinner's statement to take "special care always to keep clear of, and to reprobate gaming, cockfighting, and *milling*" in the pages of the *American Farmer*. *AF*, 6:34 (November 12, 1824) p. 270.
37. Skinner advertised for a "stallion of good size, of the best English stock, and of high character, as to pedigree and performance," and in the next issue proclaimed that "the Editor of this paper is in treaty for a Horse of

the best blood and figure -- to be had in the Union." "A Blooded Horse," *AF*, 2:48 (February 23, 1821), p. 384 and *AF*, 2:49 (March 2, 1821), p. 387.

38. See *AF*, 2:36 (December 1, 1820), p. 288 and *AF*, 3:48 (February 22, 1822), p. 384.
39. The earliest advertisements for upcoming race meetings were for the "Easton Jockey Club Races" and the "Upper Marlboro Jockey Club Races." *AF*, 1:25 (September 17, 1819), p. 200 and *AF*, 1:28 (October 8, 1819), p. 224. The first extensive listing of upcoming racing events, which included five different courses, appeared in 1823. "Fall Races," *AF*, 5:28 (October 3, 1823), p. 222. Others appeared quite frequently for the "Washington Jockey Club Races" and the "Maryland Association Races." *F*, 5:30 (October 17, 1823), p. 240, *AF*, 6:8 (May 14, 1824), p. 64, and *AF*, 6:26 (September 17, 1824), pp. 205-206.
40. Many of the horses listed at stud were secured by Skinner to service mares at a lower than usual price and were housed at his Maryland Tavern farm. Some of the horses listed were "Clifton," "Exile," "Tuckahoe," "Emperor," "Bellfounder," "Prince Regent," "Yound Oscar," and "Tom." See *AF*, 2:52 (March 23, 1821), p. 416, 4:3 (April 12, 1822), p. 24, 5:1 (March 28, 1823), p. 8, 5:7 (May 9, 1823), p. 56, and, 6:8 (May 14, 1824), p. 64.
41. The first report of race results appeared after the famous intersectional race between "Eclipse" from the North and "Henry" representing the South. "Trials of Speed," *AF*, 5:12 (June 13, 1823), p. 96. However, this was a special event and Skinner did not really begin publishing race results on a regular basis until Volume Six. The more popular race courses submitting results were the: Lawrenceville Course in Virginia; Canton Course in Maryland; Petersburg Course in Virginia; Union Course in New York; Tree-Hill Course in Virginia; and, Richmond Course in Virginia. *AF*, 6:8 (May 14, 1824) pp. 62-63, 1:9 (May 21, 1824), p. 72, 6:31 (October 22, 1824), pp. 247-248, 6:35 (November 19, 1824), p. 279, and, 6:37 (December 3, 1824), p. 296.
42. See for instance, "Performance of Postboy," *AF*, 5:28 (October 3, 1823), p. 223, "The Celebrated Race Horse Eclipse," *AF*, 5:31 (October 24, 1823), pp. 242-243, and, "Pedigree and Performances of Col. Tayloe's celebrated running horses Virago, Calypso, Leviathan and Topgallant, (1795-1806)," *AF*, 6:9 (May 21, 1824), p. 70.
43. Skinner published an extensive list of fifty-nine horses owned by John Randolph between 1801 and 1823 under the title of "The Stud of a Gentleman in the South of Virginia," *AF*, 6:3 (April 9, 1824), pp. 20-21 and shortly after published a list of eighty-one horses which lived between 1786 and 1811 as "Part of the Stud Formerly Owned by Col. John Tayloe, of Mount Airy, (Va.)," *AF*, 6:7 (May 7, 1824), pp. 50-52. These two lists became the forerunners of, and the stimulus for, Skinner's interests in the accurate recording of pedigrees which later blossomed into the *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine*.
44. These were usually published along with the announcements for upcoming racing meetings.
45. Specifically, "Articles and Rules of the New York Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Horses," *AF*, 4:33 (November 8, 1822), pp. 259-260 and the "Rules and Regulations of the Maryland Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Horses," *AF*, 5:30 (October 17, 1823), pp. 238-239.
46. "Maryland Cattle Show and Fair - No. 4 -- Report on Horses," *AF*, 5:35 (November 21, 1823), p. 273.
47. *AF*, 6:8 (May 14, 1824), pp. 62-63.
48. *AF*, 6:10 (May 28, 1824), p. 79.
49. *AF*, 6:34 (November 12, 1824), pp. 270-271.
50. *Ibid*.

51. *AF*, 1:19 (August 6, 1819), p. 151.
52. *AF*, 1:19 (August 6, 1819), p. 152.
53. "On Bathing," *AF*, 4:2 (April 5, 1822), pp. 15-16.
54. "Use of the Sweet Springs," *AF*, 5:19 (August 1, 1823), p. 152.
55. See: "General Rules for the Preservation of Health. On Bathing," *AF*, 6:11 (June 4, 1824), pp. 84-86; "On Bathing," *AF*, 6:17 (July 16, 1824), p. 134.
56. *AF*, 2:2 (April 7, 1820), p. 9.
57. *AF*, 5:28 (October 3, 1823), pp. 219-220.
58. Ibid.
59. *AF*, 6:10 (May 28, 1824), pp. 77-78.
60. "Mr. Guille's Ascension," *AF*, 1:20 (August 13, 1819), p. 158.
61. *AF*, 6:4 (April 16, 1824), p. 31.
62. "Canine Races, Mid Lothian Coursing Club," *AF*, 5:36 (November 28, 1823), p. 288.
63. "On Duelling. Doct. Franklin to Doct. Percival," *AF*, 1:20 (August 13, 1819), p. 159.
64. Reports of pedestrian contests appear in: *AF*, 4:13 (June 21, 1822), p. 102; 4:16 (July 12, 1822), p. 127; 4:17 (July 19, 1822), p. 135; 4:41 (January 3, 1823), p. 328; 5¼26 (September 19, 1823), p. 203; 5:45 (January 30, 1824), p. 360; and, 6:34 (November 12, 1824), p. 271.
65. See: *AF*, 3:35 (November 23, 1821), p. 278; 4:16 (July 12, 1822), p. 127; and, 6:34 (November 12, 1824), p. 271.
66. "Aerial Combat," *AF*, 1:23 (September 3, 1819), p. 184.
67. "High Sport," *AF*, 6:38 (December 10, 1824), p. 303.
68. *AF*, 6:26 (September 17, 1824), pp. 205-206; *AF*, 6:34 (November 12, 1824), pp. 270-271; *AF*, 6:35 (November 19, 1824), p. 279.
69. "Sports of the Plough," *AF*, 6:42 (January 7, 1825), p. 335.
70. "Sporting Olio," *AF*, 6:44 (January 21, 1825), pp. 349-350.
71. *Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary* (Springfield, Mass.: G. and C. Merriam Co., 1965), p. 588.
72. *AF*, 7:27 (September 23, 1825), p. 216.
73. John S. Skinner to Frederick A. Harris, March 16, 1826, General Manuscript Collection, Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina. On a later occasion, Skinner was quick to ask John C. Short, who had recently delivered an address to the Hamilton County, Ohio, Agricultural Society, why he "did not feel himself justified on such an occasion in making a favorable allusion to it [*American Farmer*]" Skinner also asked Short

“to render me the kindness to select some *active trustworthy* agent to procure subscribers. . . .”

John S. Skinner to John C. Short, August 27, 1828, J. C. Short Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

74. Skinner's most notable acquisition as an agent for the *American Farmer* was William T. Porter, who would become the editor of the New York based *Spirit of the Times* in 1831. *AF*, 8:14 (June 23, 1826), p. 112. The *Spirit of the Times* became the major opposition for Skinner's *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine* and Porter eventually purchased the *Turf Register* from one of Skinner's successors.
75. "Our Own Affairs," *AF*, 8:19 (July 28, 1826), p. 152.
76. *AF*, 10:45 (January 23, 1829), p. 359.
77. *AF*, 10:52 (March 13, 1829), p. 415.
78. *AF*, 8:48 (February 16, 1827), p. 384.
79. *AF*, 6:44 (January 21, 1825), p. 349.
80. *AF*, 7:6 (April 29, 1825), p. 47.
81. *AF*, 7:7 (May 6, 1825), p. 55.
82. *AF*, 7:10 (May 27, 1825), p. 79.
83. See: "Portrait of Jack," *AF*, 8:29 (October 6, 1826), p. 231; "Correct Portrait and Memoir of the Celebrated Godolphin Arabian," *AF*, 8:37 (December 1, 1826), p. 295; "The Setter," *AF*, 8:51 (March 9, 1827), p. 406; "Portrait of Tom Thumb, The Celebrated American Horse," *AF*, 11:14 (June 19, 1829), p. 110; and, "Pointers," *AF*, 11:18 (July 17, 1829), p. 142.
84. "Extraordinary Race of Beagles," *AF*, 11:4 (April 10, 1829), p. 29.
85. "The Baltimore Hunt," *AF*, 7:34 (November 11, 1825), p. 271.
86. "Fox Hunting," *AF*, 9:47 (February 8, 1828), p. 375.
87. "Rural Sports," *AF*, 8:7 (May 5, 1826), p. 54.
88. *AF*, 10:51 (March 6, 1829), p. 405.
89. "Riding on Horseback," *AF*, 11:5 (April 17, 1829), p. 39.
90. "Nine-Pins," *AF*, 11:15 (June 26, 1829), p. 118.
91. "Fellenberg School At Hofwyl," *AF*, 9:21 (August 10, 1827), p. 164.
92. "Setter Dogs," *AF*, 10:20 (August 1, 1828), p. 159.
93. For example see "Fishing," *AF*, 11:16 (July 3, 1829), p. 125.
94. "Who Wants Hounds to Summer and Breed From?" *AF*, 12:4 (April 9, 1830), p. 31.
95. "Good Shooting," *AF*, 7:22 (August 19, 1825), p. 175.

96. "Advantages of Pedestrianism," *AF*, 7:24 (September 2, 1825), p. 191.
97. "The Road to Health--or, A Physician's Opinion of Hunting," *AF*, 7:26 (September 16, 1825), p. 207.
98. *AF*, 7:34 (November 11, 1825), pp. 271-272.
99. "The Fishing Season," *AF*, 9:7 (May 4, 1827), p. 55.
100. "Fox Hunting," *AF*, 9:42 (January 4, 1828), pp. 335-336.
101. *AF*, 11:24 (August 28, 1829), p. 190.
102. The first "Ladies' Department" appeared in the issue of September 9, 1825 on page 197.
103. *AF*, :50 (March 3, 1826), p. 397.
104. *AF*, 8:2 (March 31, 1826), p. 14.
105. "Of the Exercises Most Conducive to Health in Girls and Young Women," *AF*, 9:32 (November 9, 1827), p. 254.
106. "On the Quantity of Exercise Proper for Girls and Young Women," *AF*, 9:34 (November 9, 1827), pp. 270-271.
107. "Exercise of Females," *AF*, 11:27 (September 18, 1829), p. 214.
108. "Education of Girls," *AF*, 11:41 (December 25, 1829), pp. 325-326.
109. "Of the Exercises Most Conducive. . . ," *AF*, 9:32 (October 26, 1827), p. 254. See also, "Riding on Horseback," *AF*, 10:12 (June 6, 1828), p. 95, and "Ladies On Horseback," *AF*, 12:12 (June 4, 1830), pp. 94-95.
110. "Field Sports," *AF*, 7:46 (February 3, 1826), p. 368.
111. For example, see "On Skating," *AF*, 6:44 (January 21, 1825), p. 349.
112. "Education of Girls," *AF*, 11:41 (December 25, 1829), pp. 325-326.
113. *AF*, 7:2 (April 1, 1825), p. 15.
114. "The Maryland Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Horses," *AF*, 7:6 (April 29, 1825), p. 47.
115. *AF*, 7:9 (May 20, 1825), p. 67.
116. For instance see, "The Baltimore Hunt," *AF*, 7:34 (November 11, 1825), pp. 271-272 and "Fox Hunting in the District of Columbia," *AF*, 9:3 (April 6, 1827), pp. 22-23.
117. "Extraordinary Run," *AF*, 9:3 (April 6, 1827), pp. 22-23, "Fox Hunting," *AF*, 9:52 (March 14, 1828), pp. 414-415, and "Fox Hunting in Pennsylvania," *AF*, 10:2 (March 28, 1828), pp. 13-14.
118. Pedestrianism, or the sport of long distance walking, was extremely popular in England during the 1820's, but did not begin to reach a similar stage in America until about 1829. Skinner's first article concerning an American pedestrian did not appear until March, 1829. *AF*, 11:2 (March 27, 1829), p. 15.

119. Some of the specific articles relating to these sports were: "Boat Race," *AF*, 7:10 (May 27, 1825), p. 79; "Potomac Fisheries," *AF*, 7:7 (May 6, 1825), p. 55; "Grand Steeple Chase," *AF*, 11:9 (May 15, 1829), p. 71; "English Milling," *AF*, 10:25 (September 5, 1828), p. 198; "To Oliver Neale, On the Art of Swimming," *AF*, 7:18 (July 22, 1825), pp. 141-142; "Hawking," *AF*, 10:50 (February 27, 1829), p. 398; "Rules of the Philadelphia Quoit Club," *AF*, 8:7 (May 5, 1826), pp. 54-55; "Chess," *AF*, 10:20 (August 1, 1828), pp. 159-160; "French Velocipede," *AF*, 10:21 (August 8, 1828), p. 167; "Grand Sailing Match," *AF*, 10:23 (August 22, 1828), pp. 182-183; "Nine Pins," *AF*, 11:15 (June 26, 1829), p. 118; "Archery," *AF*, 6:48 (February 18, 1825), pp. 382-383; and, "On Skating," *AF*, 6:44 (January 21, 1825), p. 349.
120. See for example: "The Science and Slang of Dog-Fighting. . .," *AF*, 6:48 (February 18, 1825), p. 383; "Camel Fights," *AF*, 11:28 (September 25, 1829), p. 221; "Description of Bull-Baiting on the Sabbath. . .," *AF*, 9:6 (April 27, 1827), p. 47; and, "Dogs--Rats," *AF*, 10:25 (September 5, 1828), p. 198.
121. See: "Singular Racing--Men Against Horses," *AF*, 7:17 (July 15, 1825), pp. 135-136; "Extraordinary Leap," *AF*, 7:22 (August 19, 1825), p. 175; "Extraordinary Fest," *AF*, 10:5 (April 18, 1828), p. 39; "Backward and Forward Match," *AF*, 10:5 (April 18, 1828), p. 39; and, "Remarkable Snake Hunt," *AF*, 11:32 (October 23, 1829), p. 253.
122. *AF*, 10:18 (July 18, 1828), p. 143.
123. *AF*, 10:47 (February 6, 1829), p. 375.
124. "American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine," *AF*, 11:24, (August 28, 1829), pp. 190-191.
125. "Change of Proprietors," *AF*, 12:25 (September 3, 1830), pp. 198-199.



Woodcut depicting fox hunting used to embellish the "Sporting Olio."

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WINEMAKING IN MARYLAND

by
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I feel somewhat out of place at a meeting of historians. My training is in plant pathology and my recent endeavors have been in breeding grapes for disease resistance.

I have been interested in the origin of the grapes I use in the breeding program and this interest has taken me back into the older literature. A background of viticulture and plant pathology has been helpful in understanding the troubles faced by the aspiring colonial winemakers.

Before getting into the history, I would like to mention two of these background factors. At the time of the discovery of the New World, there were two kinds of grapes. One was the old world *Vitis vinifera* L., which has been cultivated for 5,000 years. Plants of this species were selected for quality whether it be table use, raisins, or for wine. The other was the group of several species native to North America, never cultivated, evolved only by survival of the fittest.

An understanding of the nature of this selection process is also significant. Several fungi and insects that attack the grapevine are endemic to North America. Through evolutionary pressures, the American species developed some resistance to most of these pests. The vinifera grape was not exposed during its evolution to these pests and it carries little or no resistance. Their susceptibility was demonstrated in the mid-19th century when oidium, plasmopara, and the phylloxera root louse were carried to Europe. The vinifera vineyards were destroyed. These same diseases and insects were waiting in North America for any vinifera vines brought over here by the colonists.

The history of winemaking in Maryland followed the same patterns as in the other colonies.

The first winemakers used fruit from wild vines. Because of the unusual taste and acidity of wild grapes, these wines were of lesser quality than European wines. Wild grapes were used many times: 1565 in Florida, the Roanoke Colony, Jamestown 1609.⁵

In 1648, in Uvedale at the head of the Chesapeake Bay, Tenis Palee made eight kinds of wine from four kinds of wild grapes that flourished there.¹⁰ The major attribute of these wines appears to have been their high alcoholic content. Unfortunately, no more was heard from M. Palee.

There are a few later reports from Maryland of wine made from wild grapes. Cider and peach wine were in common



John Adlum

use among farm families and so probably were grapes in years of heavy crops.

The next type of colonial viticulture grew out of the early discovery that the native grapes flourished so exuberantly and that they made such strangely flavored wine.

From London in December of 1662, Lord Baltimore instructed Gov. Charles Calvert in Maryland to plant a vineyard and make wine. Some 240 acres on the east bank of St. Mary's River became the "Vineyard." Another 100 acres were added in 1665, and Jerome White became the patentee.⁷

Ten years later, letters from Gov. Calvert to Lord Baltimore reported with regret that the hundreds of vines sent in April 1672 failed to survive.² The land grant continued to be called the "Vineyard" despite the lack of grapes.

Another early Maryland vineyard without grapes was the "Vineyard" land grant of 1689 to Wm. Hutchinson which included the Watergate area of the District of Columbia.⁴

There were many other colonists, however, for whom the vines did survive the Atlantic crossing. It was also logical and a general practice to bring with the vines the skill and experience of a European vigneron or vinedresser.

It seems that every colonist who had money, land, and a taste for wine tried this approach. Early would-be grape growers included Lord Delaware, John Winthrop, the Dutch at New Amsterdam, the Swedes in Delaware and later George Washington, Madison, Monroe, Jefferson, and in Maryland, Charles Carroll of Annapolis. In spite of these many early attempts, I have not found a single reference (other than in Mexico) to a Colonial vineyard of European vines that succeeded well enough to actually produce wine.

It is unusual even to find reference to the production of a few clusters of fruit. One such vineyard, in Pennsylvania, had an indirect and important role in later viticulture in Maryland and elsewhere. In 1684, William Penn imported vines and a vigneron. In 1685 the vines at Philadelphia produced a few clusters of grapes which were ceremoniously presented to leading figures of the town. The vigneron must have made some sort of success for several years because he received a 200 acre grant named "The Vineyard" in

1699.⁶

A few years later, sometime before 1740, Thomas Penn's gardener, James Alexander, noted a vine growing in the woods near the site of the old vineyard. This vine had sufficient disease resistance to survive and had fruit of far better quality than that produced by the usual wild vines. Alexander propagated the vine and for 75 years it was cultivated widely in the area of Philadelphia. The 'Alexander' grape, as it was called, was perfect flowered (self-fruitful), and we can conclude that it was a hybrid between one of William Penn's vinifera vines and a wild native.⁸ The two groups of vines are interfertile and the hybrids are intermediate in character.

The 'Alexander' grape led to a new type of colonial vineyard enterprise, the cultivation of interspecific hybrid vines. About 1756, Benj. Tasker, Jr. planted a 2 acre vineyard of the 'Alexander' grape at Belair Estate, now the Levitt development of Bowie-Belair in Prince Georges County, Maryland. In 1759, he made the first vintage from cultivated hybrid grapes in the colonies that I have been able to locate.¹¹

The Rev. Andrew Burnaby was served some of Tasker's "Burgundy" at the table of Gov. Hamilton of Pennsylvania in 1760 and reported that Tasker had succeeded tolerably well for a first trial.⁵ Col. Tasker died the year following the vintage, having seen the wine spoil in late spring and the vineyard severely winter damaged.¹²

Charles Carroll of Annapolis, in 1768, planted a vineyard at Doughoregan Manor, Howard County. Included were wine grapes of Germany and France and some hybrid vines.⁹ The vineyard was carried on by his son, Charles Carroll of Carrollton and, in 1799, a visitor reported that only the "indigenous vines" survived.³ This appears to be the longest-lived prerevolutionary vineyard in any of the Colonies.

Such limited successes as there were in viticultural enterprises in the East up to about 1820 were based on the 'Alexander' and similar hybrids, as the 'Bland' of Virginia. The interspecific hybrid was a new kind of grape that was better suited to conditions here, but the wines they produced were different from the best of Europe. Because hope springs eternal, some growers continued to plant vinifera grapes and hybrids continued to appear.

A turning point in eastern viticulture came about when Major, later General, John Adlum, a Pennsylvanian,

moved to Havre de Grace about 1800. There he cultivated grapes and made wine. His 'Alexander' wine is the one praised in 1809 by Thomas Jefferson as "exactly resembling the red Burgandy of Chambertin." About 1816, Adlum moved to Georgetown and continued his vineyard trials. There he made two major contributions to viticulture. The first resulted from a stop at Mrs. Scholl's Public House in Clarksburg, Montgomery County, Maryland. The late Mr. Scholl had planted some vines of 'Catawba', a hybrid that probably originated in North Carolina. Adlum recognized that this variety was far better than the 'Alexander'. He propagated it, propagandized it, and made it available to others. There are still over 3,000 acres of 'Catawba' grown today.

Adlum's second contribution was his publication of the first book on viticulture and winemaking in the United States in 1823.¹ In this book he extolled the available hybrids and gave cultural advice suitable to this new kind of grape. He wrote with enthusiasm, and indeed sometimes with over-enthusiasm.

Based in part on Adlum's over-enthusiasm, the "Maryland Society for Promoting the Culture of the Vine" was incorporated in 1829.⁵ Several modest vineyards were planted in the Baltimore area, but I am afraid more rhetoric than wine was produced.

'Catawba' and later hybrids, some chance seedlings, others the originations of grape breeders, made possible a modest viticultural success in the East. Except in favorable sites along the Great Lakes, diseases were still the limiting factor. Genes for disease resistance from wild vines were the only kind of disease control. Quality could be increased by crossing a vinifera with hybrid vines, but the essential disease resistance of the indigenous species was diluted.

It took the arrival of the American diseases in France to originate the concept and methodology of a broad spectrum fungicidal spray. Once the foliage and fruit could be protected by spraying, it became practical to graft onto phylloxera-resistant American roots. Bordeaux mixture plus grafting made possible the restoration of the European vineyards, and it made available to viticulturists elsewhere the techniques and materials to grow grapes in spite of their susceptibility to diseases and phylloxera.

Improved fungicides and insecticides have made it possible to protect even vinifera vines in Maryland. But this culture is both costly and risky. Many modern

hybrid varieties with relatively good wine qualities were developed in Europe during the first half of this century. It took another Marylander, Philip M. Wagner, to recognize the advantages of these new hybrids and to popularize them in the United States through his books, nursery, and small winery just north of Baltimore.

Today, Maryland has three producing wineries. Two are based entirely on hybrid varieties, and one has a small percentage of its acreage and an even smaller percentage of its production in classic European vinifera varieties. So, even though the industry is small and it has taken 300 years, Lord Baltimore's vision of Maryland wines of a truly European character has begun to materialize.

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THE ART OF BEEKEEPING IN MARYLAND – PAST AND PRESENT

by
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Honey bees are not native to North America. Bee colonies were brought to this continent by European settlers sometime in the early 1600's. The first known record of bee colonies is a shipment to Jamestown, Virginia during the winter of 1621-22 (Oertel, 1945). Descendents of these bee colonies could have been transported to Maryland after the colony was settled in 1634. Unfortunately, we lack documentation of this first introduction.

Bee colonies undoubtedly fared very well in Maryland, as they did elsewhere in North America. The early settlers relied upon honey as a sweetener. The first Maryland settlers were advised to take a gallon of honey from England (Hall, 1910). One or a few bee colonies would provide a family with sufficient sweetener throughout the year. Sugar was not plentiful for many years and honey, unlike maple sugar, maple syrup, or molasses did not need processing. The abundant flowering plants of Maryland insured bountiful harvests without the need for extensive colony manipulation.

According to Oertel (1976), one of the westward routes for expansion of beekeeping was probably across Maryland to the Ohio River Valley. The native Indians were not fond of honey bees which they called the "white-man's fly". Bee colonies would proceed settlement in the frontier and the Indians obviously recognized and differentiated them from other stinging and biting insects already present. By 1800 bee colonies and beekeeping were common throughout the eastern half of North America (Nelson, 1967).

Bees were ideal farm animals because they required little care or attention. The bees would be set on a plank or board off to the side away from the other animals. Their home, referred to by various names like stand, stok, or skep, was a hollow log, a straw container or boards nailed together. These containers couldn't be easily opened so the bees were not substantially examined or manipulated. This suited many owners because of the bee's sting.

Farmers with bees would harvest honey from some of their colonies in the fall. The bees would be killed, the beeswax comb cut out and the comb crushed to remove the liquid honey. Colonies not harvested would be wintered. Next spring, the surviving colonies would increase in size and swarm. Using the empty containers of those hives harvested the previous fall, the farmer would capture the swarms to start new colonies. In the fall, the cycle would be repeated with the decision to harvest some, leaving others to overwinter.

Farmers were not specialists in earlier times. Bee colonies were only one of many sources of farm income. An individual who enjoyed the bees or their honey might have more colonies than his neighbor but honey income would still constitute only a portion of total income. Colonies were located on the home farm or on the farms of non-beekeeping neighbors. There was little movement of colonies.



A farmer and son (Cira 1777) harvesting honey from a log gum. Scene from a movie of life in Cecil County, Maryland as typical of 1777.

In the mid 1800's this pattern of beekeeping changed drastically with the development of the movable frame hive and other equipment now familiar to beekeepers. Prior to the movable frame hive, all hives differed little from the ancient home of bees. The bees attached their parallel beeswax combs to the sides and tops of the hive and to each other. Inspection of the container and its bees was not practical. Some hives had a second or upper storey in which the bees would store honey. This could be removed using smoke from a fire and a net of fine material to protect the beekeeper's face from stings.

Then in 1851 by fortunate accident, L. L. Langstroth, a minister living in Philadelphia and a hobbyist beekeeper, realized the significance of some modifications he made to one of his hives. Basically he created a small space, called a bee space today, between his hive cover and the wooden frames used to hold the beeswax comb. Langstroth reasoned, correctly, that this same space around all sides of suspended frames would create a truly movable frame. Langstroth patented his movable frame hive, the first truly movable comb hive.

The movable frame hive was rapidly accepted. Richard Colvin, a large beekeeper in Maryland, was one individual who advocated acceptance of the Langstroth hive and he helped spread the word on its effectiveness. With the movable frame hive, other pieces of beekeeping equipment were rapidly perfected. The extractor, the smoker, and a comb honey box were all improvements

that followed in the next 20 years.

Another important development in the latter part of the 1800's was the introduction and acceptance of Italian bees. Again, Richard Colvin of Baltimore figured prominently in this important advance. In the fall of 1859, Colvin and Samuel Wagner of York, Pennsylvania imported several Italian queens. Unfortunately, the queens died during the 1859-60 winter. In May 1860, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) brought additional Italian queens to the United States. By the end of the century, dollar Italian queens were offered for sale by several queen breeders and beekeepers (Riley, 1892).

By the turn of the century, honey in section boxes became very popular. Prior to the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, some syrups sold as honey contained none or only small amounts of honey. Consumers could trust honey only if it was still in the comb since there was no method of manufacturing the beeswax comb or filling it as the bees did. The art of producing comb honey, so well practiced in the late 1800's, is slowly fading away today.

Some honey is still available in the comb, especially chunk honey in the southeastern United States, but now most beekeepers produce extracted honey.

We are generally lacking in early statistics on the beekeeping industry in Maryland. Boyd (1968) listed 4,300 lbs. as the 1850 harvest in Montgomery County, a county which included some of the largest beekeepers at the time. The *Agricultural Census* for 1850 listed the beeswax and honey production at 75,000 pounds for the entire state (Oertel, 1976). By 1875 beekeeping assumed "considerable importance", especially with the wide acceptance of the mechanical honey extractor (Boyd, 1968).

In the 1900 *Census of Agriculture*, 5,098 farms reported 28,013 bee colonies in Maryland. A harvest of 306,788 lbs. of honey and 7,860 lbs. of wax at a value of \$38,857 was recorded. These statistics are not complete because the census only surveyed farms. Eight years later a Maryland State Beekeeping Association was founded by a group that included few farmers (Symons, 1908).

One thing of note in the 1900 census date is that Maryland farmers who had bees, averaged 10.5 colonies per farm. Phillips (1908) listed the 1900 national average as only 5.8 colonies per farm reporting bees. Those 5.8 colonies returned an average of \$14.40 per farm according to Phillips (1908). Presumably, Maryland farmers received a higher return due to the higher average number of colonies per farm.

TEACHING OF BEEKEEPING

In 1917, 176 beekeepers with 3,395 colonies, probably about ten percent of the beekeepers, responded to a beekeeping survey (Cory, 1918). The statistics are of interest however, in that an average harvest of 29 lbs. of honey was reported per colony. Sixty-two percent of the honey sold was comb honey and only 38 percent was extracted. The average price reported was 20 and 25 cents per pound. Cory (1918) indicated that nearly all the Maryland harvest was sold at retail markets in the state.

The most recent statistics as shown by Caron (1976a) list 11,000 bee colonies in Maryland. Total 1975 production was 253,000 lbs. of honey and 4,000 lbs. beeswax with a value of \$179,000 dollars. Maryland prices in all reporting categories averaged above the national averages owing to readily accessible retail outlets. No statistics are available, but probably less than 10 percent of the honey is sold in the comb.



Smoking the bees

A diagram of an old method of smoking a skep hive to drive the bees away before harvest.

There is a fine tradition of teaching of beekeeping in Maryland. Entomology was the responsibility of one of the first five faculty positions at the Maryland Agricultural College, predecessor to the present University, at its founding in 1859. Townsend Glover was the first person to teach entomology. Glover was also the first U.S. Government entomologist starting his duties in 1854. Beekeeping was included in early zoology and entomology courses. The first direct reference to beekeeping as a subject was an 1881 senior class listed as "the raising of swine, sheep, poultry and bees". Dr. A. Grabowski taught the course using the Quimby book "Beekeeping" (Bissell, 1960).

Entomology first achieved department status in 1897 as the Department of Entomology and Zoology. Entomology was separated about 20 years later, and for several years in the early twenties, the Department's official name was Department of Entomology and Bee Culture. George Harrison taught beekeeping for a number of years during this interval (Bissell, 1960).

In 1931, the University hired a specialist to work exclusively on honey bees. This individual, George Abrams, was to continue to teach and perform beekeeping extension activities until his death in 1965. The state beekeepers association greatly helped convince the governor and key legislative members to pass the initial \$1,500 budget appropriation to fund this beekeeping specialist position. Honey bees were present on the Maryland campus long before the first specialist was hired. In the proceedings of the first meeting of the Maryland State Beekeepers Association (1908), there is a photo of an apiary on campus. It was used both by the College and the USDA.

On April 1, 1950 over 100 individuals gathered at the University of Maryland campus to witness the ground breaking for an apicultural building on the College Park campus. With its completion in 1951, it became the first building on a college campus to be devoted entirely to apiculture (Caron, 1976b). At the dedication ceremonies, Dr. E. F. Phillips of Cornell, the first head of the USDA Bee Laboratory at Somerset, Maryland, presented the University with an early original Langstroth hive made by Richard Colvin of Baltimore.

Currently the University of Maryland offers two undergraduate courses and a graduate level course in apiculture (Caron, 1976c). This represents the greatest

number of bee and beekeeping courses in the history of the University. Enrollments are at an all time high as well; 232 students completed the introductory course in 1975. Several graduate students are pursuing studies on honey bees. Dr. Dewey Caron currently is the bee specialist having joined the staff in 1970.

APIARY INSPECTION

At the second annual meeting of the Maryland State Beekeepers Association (1909), Dr. E. F. Phillips, head of the USDA Bee Laboratory, stated that disease conditions were "rather serious" in Maryland. He proposed legislation, modeled after regulations in other states, to establish apiary inspection (Phillips, 1909). A law was not passed until 1916 however. G. H. Cale was hired on a part-time basis in 1917 to inspect bee colonies for disease.



Right after break we have to continue moving the bee colonies to fruit bloom. Ellicott City circa 1925.

Abrams, while inspecting colonies during his college studies, provided the first statistics on the incidence of disease in Maryland. Sixteen apiaries with 536 colonies were inspected in 1928 and 16 percent of the colonies were found to be diseased with American Foulbrood (AFB). The inspection program was expanded in 1937 when additional funds were secured. In that year, 15.8 percent of the colonies in 98 apiaries were infected with AFB disease. In 1967 the first fulltime apiary inspector, John Lindner, was hired. He

continues in that position today with the help of six part-time regional inspectors. The incidence of disease is now under three percent and over 6,000 colonies are examined yearly.

STATE BEE ASSOCIATION

In 1908 an important event occurred in Maryland beekeeping. On December 4 of that year over 100 beekeepers formed a state bee association. Dr. T. B. Symons State Entomologist and later Director of Extension and Acting President of the University was one of the individuals instrumental in founding the organization. Dr. Symons served as Secretary-Treasurer of the association for its first seven years. Although there was a strong contingent of members from urban areas, the association did include rural farmers as well (Symons, 1809).

The state association has pressed for state aid to beekeepers. They helped obtain passage of the first law providing for inspection of apiaries and for the dissemination of information to promote the bee industry. They worked for closer ties to the strong state horticultural association and for investigations on fruit pollination. Membership in the state association dropped to less than 50 beekeepers after the strong beginning but it was to come back up again following the war (Hambleton, 1958).

Presently, the state bee association has over 350 members. They hold four regular meetings each year that feature speakers on beekeeping subjects and bee related activities. Five other beekeeping associations are active on a regional level as well (Caron, 1976a). During the past year, the state association was instrumental in getting members an exemption from state pesticide regulations enabling beekeepers to continue to capture swarms or remove bees from buildings and trees as long as a pesticide isn't used (Caron, 1976d).

PRESENT AND FUTURE

Since World War II the number of bee colonies in the U.S. and Maryland has declined more than one percent per year. The beekeeping industry has become increasingly mechanized. There has been a tremendous increase in research efforts to unlock the biological secrets of the honey bee. A huge package bee and queen industry has developed in the United States. Beekeeping has become a specialization for some farmers, such as fruit and vegetable growers, for pollination of over 60 crops.

Maryland beekeepers participate in nearly all aspects of the beekeeping industry. Three Maryland beekeepers sell queens, and University short courses on queen rearing techniques have stimulated many others to rear their own queens. Although fewer than six Marylanders have over 300 bee colonies, by USDA definition a commercial beekeeper, there are many sideliners who supplement their regular jobs with income from their beekeeping.

Rental of bee colonies for fruit and vine crop vegetable production is extensive in Maryland. Some 5,000 colonies from 50 or so beekeepers help fruit growers produce apples, pears, cherries, and peaches, while some 3000 colonies from about 25 beekeepers are responsible for melon, squash, and cucumber pollination.



An old fashioned hive typical of the many designs of hives prior to the Langstroth hive.

Maryland beekeepers use movable frame equipment exclusively. This has helped bring earlier disease problems under better control. Maryland has added a technological development, ethylene oxide (ETO) fumigation, to its disease control arsenal (Shimanuki, 1976). It is no longer necessary to destroy valuable bee equipment contaminated with American Foulbrood (AFB) disease. More recently an M.S. thesis by a

Maryland apiculture student has demonstrated that the bees from diseased colonies, in addition to their equipment, can be salvaged (Knox, 1975).

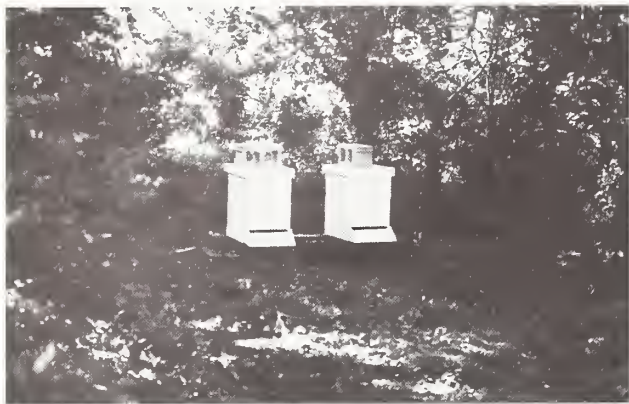
One of the concerns of our beekeepers today is sale of honey. Honey sales are not a new topic. Symons (1908) discussed the depressing effect imported Cuban honey was having on domestic sales in his remarks before the first Maryland association meeting in 1908. In 1976 several Marylanders appeared before the U.S. International Trade Commission to express their opinions on a petition by elements of the bee industry to increase the tariff on imported honey. The commission agreed with the vast majority of the beekeepers offering testimony and recommended a tariff rate quota system to help protect the domestic industry (U.S. Int. Trade Comm., 1976).

Another great concern is that of pesticide injury to bee colonies. Pesticides have had a devastating effect on honey bees and have necessitated many changes in beekeeping. In an effort to retain a beekeeping industry, the federal government authorized an indemnification program in 1971, to cover losses retroactive to 1967, that pays beekeepers who suffer pesticide damage. Maryland beekeepers have received in excess of \$15,000 from this program since 1967 (Caron, 1975). Although serious, we have been fortunate in Maryland in not suffering even greater losses.

Beekeeping in Maryland in the future has both good and bad elements. Bee pasturage has been steadily declining with modern agricultural practices and with the increasing urbanization of our state. Honey, once a valuable ingredient in the diet, has steadily declined in per capita consumption. At present pollination rental fees, established mainly by beekeepers, result in beekeepers losing rather than making money. Foreign honey is holding down domestic prices, while a new low-cost manufacturing process to convert corn syrup into a high fructose sugar product has captured many of the commercial outlets for extracted honey. Bad publicity surrounding the African bee in South America has all but inundated the efforts of many to tell the real story of the industrious honey bee.

On the other hand, interest in beekeeping as a hobby sees no sign of decline. More Marylanders are taking beekeeping courses at the University and at community colleges than ever before. The need for honey bee pollination of fruit and vegetable crops is increasing rather than decreasing in Maryland. The African bee publicity doesn't help, but there are strong indications that the bee itself will not be able to successfully

overwinter in Maryland and thus doesn't present a direct threat. Maryland beekeepers have built up and maintained excellent local retail outlets and they have not suffered to the extent that others have in the United States.



A modern backyard apiary with two bee hives in standard Langstroth hives.

Honey bees are of vital importance to Maryland agriculture and our appreciation of nature with their pollination activities. Their products are still free of environmental contaminants and of potential benefit to the diet of all. Honey bees are the only creatures that can harvest a rich natural resource in the state, nectar, and convert it to honey for our use. Keeping bees as a hobby provides a valuable outlet for spare time and relief from life's pressures. The honey bee is truly an ally of man — a role it has played since its first arrival in our state.

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LIVING HISTORICAL FARMS AND MARYLAND AGRICULTURE

by
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Living historical farms and agricultural museums offer historians and museum specialists a method for both preserving and presenting an important part of our past. They appeal at several levels of education, from the child interested in animals to geneticist interested in "breeding back" plants and animals. They can offer an unusual combination of entertainment and education. They offer an opportunity to the 96 percent of the American population who do not live on farms to recall childhood scenes or to see something never seen before.

A living history farm is a farm upon which people carry out agricultural operations as they did during some specific time in the past. Some living history farms show life as it was during the period a notable American lived on that farm, while others are typical of a particular time and area. The George Washington Birthplace, east of Fredericksburg, Virginia, is of the first type; the National Colonial Farm, at Accokeek, Maryland, the second.

There can be a number of goals for the farms. One is to reproduce the past as accurately as possible, with the purpose of both educating and entertaining the visitors. Another is to make non-farmers aware of some of the problems farmers have faced in the past. A third is to provide a stockpile of plant and animal germ plasm, so that particular varieties and breeds will not be lost. The last point is important if we remember that some of these early varieties

and breeds were naturally resistant to some diseases and pests.

The living historical farm idea is not new. In July 1945, Herbert Kellar published an article in the quarterly journal, *Agricultural History* calling for "Living Agricultural Museums." The Freeman Farm at Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts, was dedicated in 1952. In Maryland, the National Colonial Farm was first proposed in 1957. Some farming began in 1959. A great deal of land restoration was necessary. Although the farm was open to visitors by appointment from the mid-1960's on, it was open to the general public without appointment only in 1976.

The idea of living historical farms did not become widely accepted until after the appearance in the April 1965 issue of *Agricultural History* of an article by Marion Clawson entitled "Living Historical Farms: A Proposal for Action." Clawson, a land economist and research director at Resources for the Future, Inc., sent copies of his proposal to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. All three responded favorably.

An informal committee, representing the three Institutions, was organized in 1965 and has continued to the present time. At the request of this committee, the Smithsonian Institution assumed the responsibility for a study of Clawson's living historical farms proposal. In addition to its own personnel, the Smithsonian

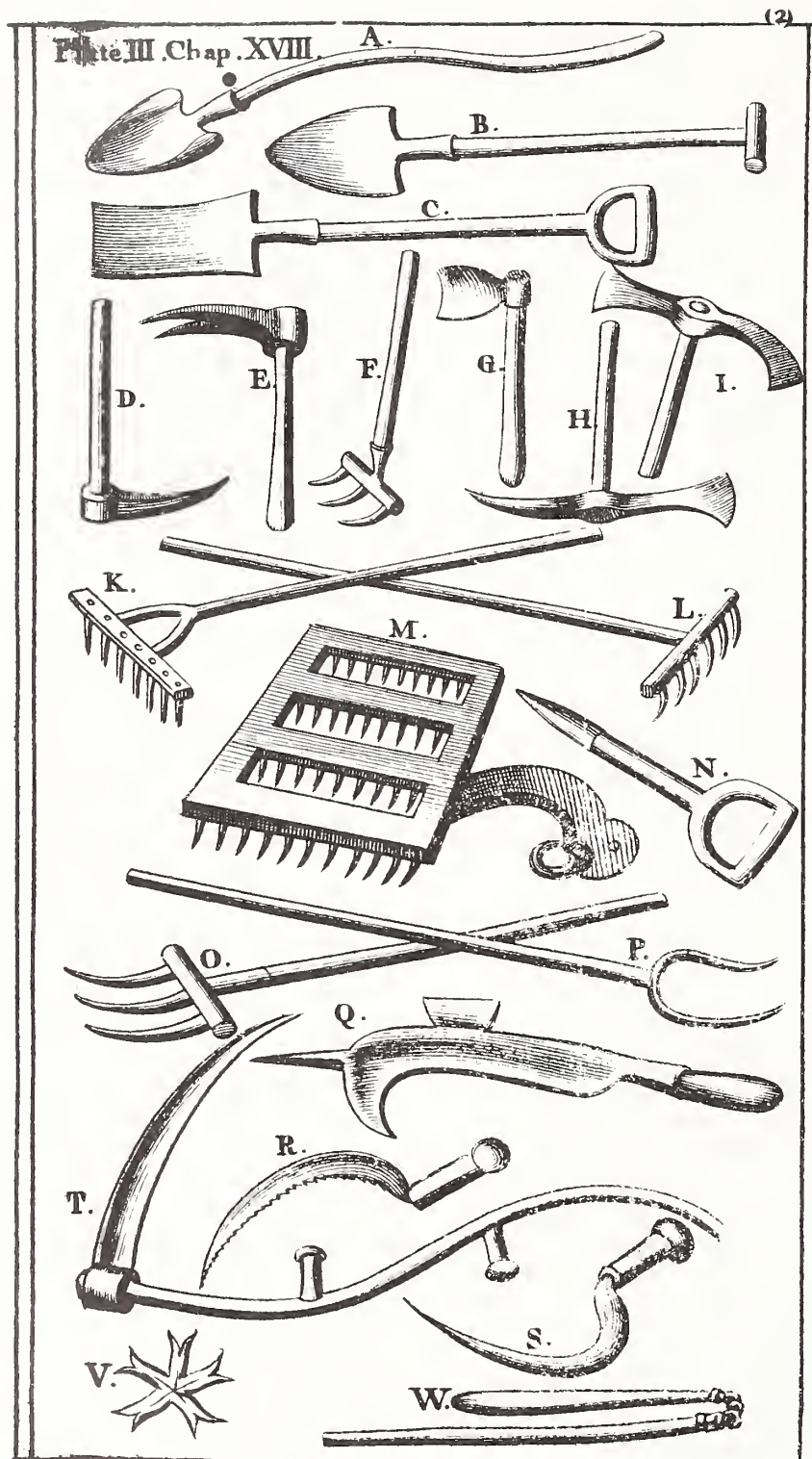


Illustration of garden tools from Richard Bradley's Survey of Ancient Husbandry and Gardening, published in 1725. (Courtesy, National Agricultural Library, Rare Book Collections.)

Institution received a grant from Resource for the Future, Inc., while the U.S. Department of Agriculture assigned a staff member to work with the Smithsonian group. Two publications resulted. A technical paper was used by persons interested in the problems of establishing a farm. An illustrated booklet, *Living Historical Farms: A Walk Into the Past*, published in 1968, had a very wide popular appeal.

In order to examine some of the historical problems of the past in detail, a series of symposiums was organized. The first, on 18th century agriculture, was held at the Smithsonian Institution in October 1967. It was sponsored by the Accokeek Foundation, the Agricultural History Society, and the Smithsonian Institution. The proceedings were published as the January 1969 issue of *Agricultural History*. A second symposium on American agriculture, 1790–1840 was held at Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts in 1970. At that time, the Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums was founded. Since then, the Association has held annual meetings and has published its proceedings in recent years. There has also been a series of agricultural history symposiums, some held in connection with meetings of the Association and some held independently. The proceedings have been published by the Agricultural History Society.

During the first decade of the present-day Living Historical Farm movement, some notable progress has been made, but some major problems have been revealed. The most notable progress has been made through the establishment of a number of living historical farms in several sections of the United States. The Bicentennial activities encouraged the movement, both in arousing interest and in providing some funds. The financial problem, though, is still very real. One hope is that the Federal Government will, sooner or later, establish a revolving loan fund, perhaps on a matching basis, to assist individual farms.

Any new living historical farm faces major problems of organization, management, and staffing. *The Living Historical Farms Handbook*, by John T. Schlebecker and Gale E. Peterson, published in 1972 by the Smithsonian Institution, addresses these problems in a forthright and helpful way. It is one of the most substantial single contributions yet made to the movement. It has been supplemented by the *Bulletin* of the Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums and by the proceedings of the Association's annual meetings. These regularly carry practical articles by members who have faced the

problems they discuss.

Some of the articles deal with sources of authentic tools and implements and early varieties and breeds of plants and animals. Some farms have begun programs to breed back present varieties and breeds to those found at sometime in the past. Some of the farms, notably the National Colonial Farm and the Freeman Farm at Old Sturbridge Village, have called upon geneticists for assistance. More of this work will be done in the future as we become more aware of the need to maintain earlier types of germ plasm. Although none of the farms have been involved in problem situations, so far as supplying old stock is concerned, the experience of the hybrid seed corn companies a few years ago with Southern Corn Blight, is an example of what can happen. The seed companies had to go back to earlier varieties to find resistance to the disease. It had been lost in the newest varieties because of the emphasis on other desirable characteristics.

Historians have been of some help to the new living historical farms. This help, though, has been less substantial than expected. Living historical farms need minute details from the past in order to make their restorations as authentic as possible. Historians have tended to emphasize general trends and to omit details. A number of farm founders have had to hire historians to undertake the detailed research needed. This was true, for example, in the National Park Service's Turkey Run Farm and Lincoln Boyhood Home. Other farms, already established, have found that they need detailed historical research. The National Colonial Farm has recently hired a historian to determine the exact crops and livestock which might have been grown at Accokeek in 1750, and to find out how a farm or small plantation may have been physically organized.

The living historical farms movement may bring a new dimension to historical research. The type of information needed by the farms will also be useful in reconstructing the lives of ordinary people. Social and economic history, in particular, will benefit from such new knowledge.

Leaders of living historical farms must call upon historians and historical research if the farms are to be authentic, not only in the minute detail of kitchen equipment and varieties of plants, for example, but for the setting in which they operate. In meeting these needs, historians will bring an added depth to their discipline. The ultimate beneficiaries will be the American people.

Agricultural and other museums often give us some idea

as to the tools and equipment used in the past. Some of these museums are local in nature. For example, the Carroll County Farm Museum in Westminster, Maryland, has a good collection of tools. Craft and harvesting demonstrations are held from time to time. The agricultural wing of the Smithsonian's Museum of History and Technology traces agricultural developments from colonial times to the present. Their exhibits range from wooden harrows, and hay forks, to portable steam engines and early gasoline tractors.

Old farm journals offer illustrations of some of the machines and equipment as well as animals of an earlier day. Journals in the collections of the National Agricultural Library show such diverse items as the Patuxent plow, the double pointed cultivator, a prize Durham bull and an early fertilizer plant in Baltimore, Maryland.

One of the requirements for an authentic living historical farm is that it cover a specific time at a particular place. The Turkey Run Living Historical Farm at McLean, Virginia, portrays a poor farm as of 1776. The plan is to develop the farm year by year just as the settlers would have done. Fields will be enlarged and, eventually, the cabin will be improved.



A replica of a small-scale farm house of the 1770's at the end of a country lane with railfence, located at Turkey Run Farm in McLean, Virginia.

(Picture courtesy, USDA, Economic Research Service)

The National Colonial Farm at Accokeek, Maryland, portrays a small plantation, probably operated with indentured servants or one or two slaves. The National Colonial Farm is also doing experimental work in "back breeding."

One of the outstanding living historical farms in the United States, and one of the first, is the Freeman Farm at Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts. This farm attempts to portray all operations, including those in the house, on a year-round basis. Depending upon the season, the visitor might see plowing with oxen, mowing oats with a scythe, fence building, or dyeing wool.

Some living historical farms are associated with famous men. George Washington's Birthplace, near Fredericksburg, Virginia, carries on major farming activities. The manor house is a contrast with Turkey Run, but hoeing the crops is similar.

Many museums and farms are not living historical farms in a real sense of the word because they combine activities from various periods in the past or because they emphasize demonstrations rather than a normal year's activity. These, of course, can be very valuable. The Oxon Hill, Maryland, Children's Farm at the intersection of Indian Head Highway and the Capitol Beltway (I-495), is an excellent example of such activities. It reaches thousands of school children every year. They can see sorghum syrup being made or pet a calf.

The Belle Grove Plantation near Middletown, Virginia, like many others, holds a field day every year. This Plantation is maintained by the National Historical Trust. At the field day, there are many varied activities, from making butter to building furniture.

In summary, Living Historical Farms can be educational as well as entertaining and stimulating. On a practical side, they offer an opportunity for rural development even though on a limited scale, and can serve as a storehouse for vital germ plasm of plants and animals no longer raised. Living Historical Farms show one of the most important foundations for our national development as we take "a walk into the past."

ORAL HISTORY OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURE: A VOICELESS PAST, A CHALLENGING FUTURE

by
Martha Ross
Department of History
University of Maryland

On occasions in the past when I have spoken to groups on oral history undertakings documenting their activities, organizations, or professions, I have customarily begun by saying, "I am here to bring you greetings from your own past." Indeed, this is what oral history is all about: personal accounts of historically interesting events or developments, in the voices, the words, of actual participants and observers. Personal accounts, reflections, and assessments tend to put living flesh on the dry bones of written documentation. Those accounts, captured on tape recordings, can carry this first-hand experience to the scholar removed in time or in distance from the participant. When transcribed, edited, indexed, photocopied, perhaps published in microform, such interviews can be widely circulated for the convenience of prospective users.

Accounts from the recent past in agricultural development are especially susceptible to oral documentation, since innovators in agricultural enterprises may be less likely than others to spend time chronicling their own achievements. In any case, official accounts, often the product of many authors, prove not to tell the full story, omitting as they tend to do the alternatives that go into decision-making and the impact of personality on events, both of which can be retrieved by knowledgeable and skilled interviewers if they can get to those involved. Further, as social and cultural historians are well aware, rural folk who are actually experiencing contemporary life, like their urban cousins, are least-likely of all to leave behind full accounts of just how it was.

As applicable as this technique is to preserving the human experience, I am unable to bring you greetings from Maryland's agricultural past. As far as I have been able to ascertain, there have been no organized attempts to collect reminiscences from those involved in the development of Maryland agriculture in the 20th century. There are agricultural oral histories in other parts of the nation: those documenting the citrus industry in California, sharecropping in Mississippi, ranching and rodeos in Texas, and organizing farmworkers in Michigan, to name a few diverse projects.

And oral history has enjoyed several years of growing activity in Maryland. The Maryland Historical Society has had an oral history director since 1969. Courses and projects are under way in many of the State's academic institutions and under the sponsorship of local and county historical societies and libraries. Watermen in Dorchester County, for example, boatmen on the C & O Canal, residents of ethnic neighborhoods in Baltimore have all been interviewed.

But where are the interviews dealing with agricultural developments in this significantly agricultural state?

Several years ago, at the suggestion of Dr. Gordon Cairns, Dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Maryland, and with the cooperation of Mary Boccaccio, University Archivist, several advanced students in oral history initiated a series of interviews with persons having a significant association with the University's College of Agriculture. Because of limited funds, even those few interviews are just now being transcribed.

I am confident that there are other interviews casting light on Maryland's agricultural history. Scholars doing research for their own work, interview collections on other general topics such as biographical projects, local history, or political personages, probably contain information relevant to Maryland agriculture. But such bodies of information, wherever they are, are not thus far identified or readily available to the interested inquirer. Therefore, the field is wide open for vigorous initiatives, taking different approaches, from different perspectives.

The first challenge would be the location and identification of existing materials bearing on Maryland agriculture in whatever collections. Such identification is not only advisable for the convenience of interested researchers but is also essential to avoid a duplication of effort. The cost of oral history interviews, when properly conducted and handled, makes any avoidable duplication unthinkable. Whatever resources may be available must be committed to gathering unique information, not to rehashing what is already known.

Once these existing materials have been located and identified, how should new areas of inquiry be defined? A number of different approaches come to mind. One suggests pursuing significant questions in terms of locale. Crucial factors in the development of the Eastern Shore's broiler industry, for example, will not be the same as those affecting Western Maryland's orchards. Local colleges, universities, libraries, and historical societies in every part of Maryland could profitably institute oral history inquiries to generate information about local interests.

In addition, there exists a number of local farm organizations, such as The Grange, which have preserved written archives for a number of years. Such collections offer the opportunity to supplement those documents with oral interviews with knowledgeable members, and the preparation for this type of interview often brings to light relevant personal memorabilia, such as letters, diaries,

journals, business records, as well as scrapbooks and photograph albums, which enrich any historical collection.

Another path might follow statewide developments by commodity: progress in dairying, for instance, or livestock raising, or corn production. What happened to Maryland agriculture when soybeans became a significant crop?

Still another approach could examine the impact of governmental intervention--local, state, federal--in agricultural matters. What has been the effect on agricultural interests of local land use and property tax legislation, for example? And, in turn, how has such legislation been influenced by agricultural interests in various jurisdictions? The impact of rural representation in state legislatures has undergone drastic changes in wake of the one person/one vote decision of the United States Supreme Court. How has this change been reflected in Maryland agricultural policy?

Of course, Maryland has had one of the most significant agricultural extension programs in the nation. To what extent has personal experience with that program been documented in oral interviews?

The impact of historical events on the progress and direction of agricultural development presents a promising area for inquiry. What do rural Marylanders recall of their experiences on the farm during the Great Depression? How did Maryland agriculture react to the depleted manpower and changing demands for agricultural products during World War II? In recent times, international trade agreements have impacted significantly on questions of national agricultural policy. How have these circumstances affected Maryland agriculture?

Finally, in large part the story of 20th century American agriculture has been a story of scientific and technological achievement. Not a few of these have originated within the borders of the Free State. To what extent have the circumstances of those developments been illuminated with personal recollections? How have technological advances, originated elsewhere, affected agricultural events in Maryland?

The opportunities seem almost endless for the imaginative and informed planner, offering opportunities at all levels: from local volunteer groups to large academic and professional organizations. The one essential, regardless of size, scope, and type of undertaking, is responsible expertise

in planning and carrying forward any project. Not only is such expert guidance necessary to avoid costly duplication of effort and unnecessarily repetitious exploitation of knowledgeable and articulate interviewees; in addition, there is no need for any project in Maryland to repeat, inadvertently, any of the costly, time-consuming, or damaging errors of other earlier undertakings.

Fortunately, for anyone interested in oral history in Maryland, an abundance of expert experience and advice is available. Oral history practitioners are traditionally and notably generous with their advice and counsel. The Oral History Association, with an international membership, annually offers a workshop for interested beginners, with instructional sessions on all elements of oral history activity, interspersed with informal opportunities for participants to eat, drink, and talk with such luminaries as Louis Starr of Columbia University, Forrest Pogue, biographer of General George C. Marshall, and Alan Fusonie of the National Agricultural Library.

The concentration of oral history experience and resources in the mid-Atlantic region, with its wealth of federal, state, local, university, ethnic, and professional activities, has led to the organization of a group calling itself Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR). A principal purpose for the group's formation is to provide an exchange of information among existing projects and expert advice/counsel/guidance/encouragement for individual groups and individuals interested in initiating such a project. The University of Maryland, the National Agricultural Library, the Maryland Historical Society, Towson State College, and the Community College of Baltimore are among the institutions representing Maryland in these professional activities.

What kind of expertise can the novice expect to receive? All too often the aspiring oral historian, even though he may already be a professional in another field, regards oral history simply as the process of setting up the microphone and letting the interviewee talk. This approach leads most likely to a man-in-the-street type of superficial inquiry that not only turns off the cooperative respondent (who may have already said all this to the *Baltimore Sun*), but especially will discredit the collection with scholars who, upon taking the trouble to seek out its information, finds nothing original, no probing questions generating fresh, historically interesting information from this respondent's unique point of view.

Experienced practitioners first advise thorough preparation and planning in setting up a project, as well as in selecting and approaching each interviewee. They can cite successful procedures for planning, budgeting, staffing, and equipping a project; for training and supervising the personnel, whether professional or volunteer; and for processing, accessioning, and making available the completed interviews. Some particularly successful individuals can even give advice on fund-raising; their counsel is much in demand. Considerations of legal contracts for acquiring rights to the material and conditions for its use must ideally be undertaken at the outset of such a program, to avoid the possibility of misunderstanding later on between the program and its respondents or their heirs. Experienced oral historians can help new groups in informing their own legal counsel about the unique concerns of oral history memoirs.

Most of all, those of us who have participated in developing oral history collections will encourage newcomers to join us, to get to work, and to share the delights and fulfillment of knowing that you are helping to generate and preserve unique materials, undertakings that not only reward the immediate participants with a sense of worth and value but also enrich the collective memory of our society and our times, speaking to the future with many voices. To paraphrase Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Alas for those who never speak, but die with all their memories in them." Perhaps the next time we meet, I can indeed bring you greetings from your own past in Maryland agriculture.

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* * *

Persons with a continuing interest in oral history will want to join the Oral History Association, which they are invited to do by writing to:

Ronald E. Marcello
Secretary/Treasurer
Oral History Association
North Texas State University
P.O. Box 13734
Denton, Texas 76203

Mid-Atlantic oral historians may wish to join OHMAR (Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region), which they are invited to do by writing to:

Theodora Poletis
Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region
7102 Rodgers Court
Baltimore, Maryland 21212

(Continued from page 52)

would it cost to convert our truck fleet from one which ran across the country, to one which talked across? Who knows? \$100 billion, \$200 billion? Who knows? But the main thing is, conversion and change must be gradual so that economic shifts will not overshadow the need for energy shifts. Because to move too fast in any direction would be wrong. Thus, we come to the conclusion, that at least for the next decade or two, because of investment in equipment, technology and distribution, petroleum energy is going to be the mainstay of Maryland agriculture. Costs will vary, availability will vary and priorities will vary.

How much these factors vary is a challenge to all — Maryland food producers, Maryland food consumers, American producers and consumers. Business, as we knew it 10 years ago, will not be as usual. How close it is to that, however, is how diligent all of us are in helping establish energy, environmental and land use policy based on peoples' needs rather than passing whims and emotions.

ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE IN MARYLAND

by
Bill Anderson

Independent Petroleum Association of America

It may seem a little unusual to have a representative of the petroleum producing industry on a program such as this. We know how to produce oil and natural gas, but what do we know about agriculture? By listening to my introduction, my identification with agriculture is clear, but the relationship between the food industry and the energy industry—particularly independent oil and gas producers—goes far beyond my personal background.

In the first place, we're both in the energy industry. We're producing fossil energy, Maryland farmers are producing food energy. Depending on the situation, we frequently measure both forms of energy in terms of BTU's and calories. Another similarity is that the two are independent with today's technology. Optimum food energy production is not possible without adequate supplies, at very precise times, of fossil energy in the form of fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, and packaging materials. And, obviously, a healthy economy needs ample food energy for its workers. Another close relationship between the two today evolves around trade. Without today's significant exports of agricultural products, we would not have adequate foreign exchange with which to purchase more than 40 percent of our oil needs from abroad. And, in the absence of sharply increased domestic oil and gas production, reduced imports would adversely affect food production.

So, it is worthy to discuss these issues in concert as we look to the future in this Bicentennial year. During the first two hundred years we have developed the foremost agricultural and industrial nation in the world, a nation very dependent on energy. Decisions made now for our future are of the utmost importance.

REGIONALISM AND ENERGY

Many say we have not had an oil policy in this country over the past two decades. That is not true. During the 1950's and 1960's while OPEC oil was cheap, we had a policy under the guise of "national security" of curtailing domestic production and increasing cheap imports. This found the areas along the Atlantic seaboard getting the primary benefit of cheap imported oil, while the Great Plains relied on higher priced, limited supplies of domestic crude. An elaborate system of "equalization" of costs was worked out by government to attempt to bring about equity in pricing of oil, but even that caused further distortion. Imported oil was cheaper than Appalachian coal and that industry was destroyed. Seemingly unlimited supplies of natural gas at government controlled, low prices further aggravated this situation.

By the late 1960's we saw the pattern begin to change, but 20 years of "habit" made people and policy hard to change—a situation still with us today.

By 1968 we quietly found ourselves importing oil by necessity, not by choice — even if it was cheaper. Natural gas supplies were falling behind and producing states began luring industry away from Northern states with the promise of stable supplies, though at a higher, uncontrolled price. In agriculture, for instance, fertilizer production moved to Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma for assured supplies of gas and we started shipping fertilizer north, rather than natural gas. A new regionalism was developing.

Then came the 1973 Arab oil embargo and subsequent sharp import price increases and we found ourselves in a new ball game. Prices on the Eastern seaboard were set to skyrocket.

Imported oil at \$10.00, \$12.00 and \$14.00, made for more expensive gasoline and fuel oil than did lower price domestic crude. So, again we turned to government to “equalize” things because as a matter of national policy — now in reverse of a decade earlier — producing states could not have cheaper gasoline than importing states.

Legislation providing for price controls, price rollbacks, refining allocation and end-user allocation is now history. But, so seems energy independence and our reliance on unstable supplies of foreign energy continues to increase.

As far as regionalism is concerned, it continues to thrive. Bumper stickers in Texas proclaim “Let the Damn Yankees Freeze in the Dark.” Northern Congressmen stand firm in their refusal to decontrol wellhead prices of oil and natural gas for fear of higher prices — unfortunately without thought to energy availability at any price. Western states are acting very jealously as we talk about development of coal and shale. So, as I said before, policies made in the near future will have a long-term bearing on the future of Maryland agriculture. I’ll attempt to review some alternate scenarios.

THE FUTURE OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURE

A former boss once said it is much safer to be jockey than a bookie. But today I’ll cast that aside and try to, as a bookie would, predict what could happen.

In our first case, we’ll assume regionalism expands. Producing states become more parochial and take actions to serve their own residents first. This would mean more

reliable supplies of fuel to farmers on the Great Plains. Because of this and because of uncertainty of available supplies and price of fuel, Maryland agriculture probably could no longer compete in the production of corn, small grains, and soybeans and would have to move into the greater production of lower energy crops such as forage and pasture or into less price sensitive perishable crops to meet the demands of an ever growing population in this area. As gasoline prices rise and availability may become a factor again, agricultural land in Maryland could become an important factor in providing more close — to — home recreation. On the other hand dwindling supplies of natural gas will bring new pressures on the Great Plains. Millions of well irrigated areas now in intense production may revert to dry-land operations. Huge supplies of nitrogen needed in the Corn Belt may not be available in the form we find them today.

Politics offers yet another dimension. During the Arab embargo, we developed our first system of mandatory allocation of petroleum products by the Federal Government. At that time, agriculture was able to get one of the highest, broadest priorities granted. However, as FEA is now restudying those priorities, it has been proposed that the agricultural priority be narrowed. A recent proposal in the *Federal Register* would eliminate the production of tobacco and greenhouse and nursery crops, important in Maryland, as well as fiber products such as cotton and wool, from the high agricultural priority. As energy supplies become more critical and as political pressures grow, who can say what crop is next? But again, during past times of crisis, new technology has developed and many factors can change. New varieties of grain crops could give double-cropping, particularly on the Eastern Shore, a new dimension of competition.

New uses of urban waste, from electric generation with sludge, to the utilization of the nutrient value of secondary treated sewage, could and should be looked at by those interested in Maryland agriculture. Solar techniques for crop drying, sure to come, will make a difference.

But the fact remains, energy from whatever source, and at whatever price, will be the key to agricultural production.

ENERGY FOR THE FUTURE — FROM WHERE

Rhetoric is, and continues on this issue in abundance. For a second, let us assume we can harness rhetoric and it, instead of petroleum, could run our nation. How much

(Continued on page 50)

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Green, W. W. and W. R. Stevens, Cooperative Research: the University of Maryland and Wye Plantation. College Park, Maryland Experiment Station Misc. Publ. 725, 1970, 21 p. tables, photos., biblio.

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Hale, Roger F. Prices Paid for Maryland Farm Products, 1851-1927.

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Holmes, Alester G., and George R. Sherrill. Thomas Green Clemson; His Life and Work. Richmond, Garrett and Massie, Inc., 1937. 212 p.

The authors discuss Clemson's support of agricultural improvement in Maryland through his writings in the American Farmer and his endorsement of the agricultural college.

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Maryland State Planning Commission. 1938, 98 p.

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Maryland. Archives of Maryland 71 vol. Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1883-1970.

Proceedings of the colonial legislature, and the Council of Safety; correspondence of the governor and his council; laws; and proceedings of various courts.

Maryland. Documents, 1829-

These included messages of the governors, and reports of State officials, regular and special legislative committees, and such others required by law. They were published together beginning in 1829.

Maryland. Proceedings of the Senate, 1777-

Maryland. Proceedings of the House of Delegates, 1777-

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Document the efforts of the chemist to assist producers in applying chemistry to crop production and soil improvement.

Maryland. Department of Agriculture. Maryland Agri-Views.

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Miller, W. "Dairying Opportunity in Maryland," Country Life, 10 (August 1906), 431-435.

Mitchell, W. E. Prices Received by Maryland Farmers, 1910-1958. Maryland-Delaware Crop Reporting Service Misc. Extension Publ. 49, College Park, Aug. 1959. Tables, charts, append. 60 p.

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Moore, Thomas. The Great Error of American Agriculture Exposed: And Hints for Improvement Suggested. Baltimore, Bonsal and Niles 1801. 72 p.

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Morriss, Margaret S. Colonial Trade of Maryland, 1689-1715. Johns Hopkins Studies in Historical and Political Science. Ser. 32, No. 3. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press, 1914. 157 p.

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Orions, G. Harrison. "The Origin of the Ring Tournaments in the United States, Maryland Historical Magazine, 36 (September 1941), 263-80.

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_____. "The American Farmer, a Pioneer Agricultural Journal, 1819-1834," Agricultural History, 24 (July 1950), 146-51.

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_____. "Maryland as a Source of Food Supplies During American Revolution," Maryland Historical Magazine, 46 (Sept. 1951), 157-172.

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Smith, Abbot E. "The Indentured Servant and Land Specualtion in Seventeenth Century Maryland," American Historical Review, 40 (April 1935), 467-72.

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A discussion of the claim that Hussey's was the first practical reaper.

Starr, Merritt. "General Horace Capron, 1804-1885,"
Illinois State Historical Society Journal, 18 (July 1925),
259-349.

Includes excerpts from two volume typed memoirs of
Capron. Original at Library of Congress, carbon at NAL.
Steffens, D. H. "The Farmers' Club of Sandy Spring, Maryland,"
Ohio Farmer, 133 (March 28, 1914), 447-48.

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group.

Thomas, James W. and T. G. C. Williams. History of Allegany
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U.S. Department of Agriculture. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The Crop and Livestock Reporting Service of the United States. U.S. Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication No. 171, Washington, 1933. 104 p.

Includes discussion of James T. Earle's interest in statistical reporting.

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Intermittent bulletins on surveys made of specific counties.

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Vierheller, A. F. "Maryland Agricultural History," American Fruit Grower, 54, (May 1934), 17.

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Whedbee, T. Courtenay J. The Port of Baltimore in the Making. Baltimore, Schneidereith and Sons, 1953. 100 p.

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- Wilstach, Paul. Potomac Landings. Garden City, N. Y. Doubleday, Page and Co., 1921, 376 p.
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- _____. "Maryland in the Early Land-Grant College Movement," Agricultural History, 36 (Oct. 1962) 194-199.
- Wiser, Vivian and Wayne D. Rasmussen. "Background for Plenty: A National Center for Agricultural Research," Maryland Historical Magazine, 61 (December 1966), 283-304.
- Developments leading to the establishment of the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md.
- Woodward, William. "The Thoroughbred Horse and Maryland," Maryland Historical Magazine, 17 (June 1922), 139-162.

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Agricultural History, 12 (July 1938), 299-310.

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(December 1937), 331-339.

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Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and
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Johns Hopkins Press, 1936, 228 p., tables, biblio., index.

Wysong, John W. Adjustments and Changes in the Geographical
Location and Product-Mix of the Maryland Farm Industry,
1939-1969. College Park, Md. Maryland Agricultural
Experiment Station Miscellaneous Publication 832, Apr.
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Emphasis placed in value of farm products sold.
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Experiment Station Miscellaneous Publication 489. August
1963. 58 p.

Journals

Early agricultural journals had a common practice of soliciting subscribers wherever possible. To appeal to a wide audience, they frequently copied articles from each other and featured columns on producers in other states. Thus, The Plough the Loom and the Anvil in Philadelphia had an article on John Singleton's use of Marl; the Cultivator of Albany, New York found Charles B. Calvert's operations at Riversdale of sufficient interest to discuss at length in 1858, and the Genesee Farmer of Rochester, New York in its May 1853 issue described practices of Francis P. Blair, Horace Capron and Charles B. Calvert.

Agricultural Museum (Georgetown, D. C.), July 1810-June 1812.

The first agricultural periodical published in America by David Wiley documented the cooperation of Maryland residents in the activities of the Columbian Agricultural Society.

American Farmer (Baltimore), 1819-61, 1866-97. 12 series

The first agricultural journal to attain wide circulation had a number of editors during its publication, including: John Stuart Skinner, Gideon Smith, I., Irving Hitchcock, E. P. Roberts, Samuel Sands, Nicholas B. Worthington, and William B. Sands.

The first five series (1819-61) and a few later issues were consulted in this study. The second series (May 19, 1834-May 22, 1839), called the Farmer and Gardener, was considered a continuation of the earlier journal. The former title was readopted when the third series (May 29, 1839-May 14, 1845) was opened. With the institution of the fourth series the paper was issued on a monthly instead of a weekly basis.

This periodical has been used as a source of information by those writing on agriculture of the period. Some agricultural societies, including the Maryland State organization (1848-60) relied on it to preserve a record of their activities.

American Museum or Universal Magazine (Philadelphia), 1787-92.

General in scope, the magazine included articles on agriculture and had a number of subscribers from Maryland.

Farmers' Register (Shellbanks, Petersburg, Virginia), 10 vols., June 1833-December 1842.

Edited by Edmund Ruffin, the journal soon became well known with a number of correspondents and subscribers in Maryland.

Journal of the United States Agricultural Society, 1852-54, 1856-62 (Washington), 1855 (Boston).

The organ of the United States Agricultural Society recorded the participation of Maryland agriculturists in its activities.

Maryland Farmer and Mechanic (Baltimore), 1864-1902.

Instituted during the Civil War by S. Sands Mills and E. W. Whitman, it encouraged producers to adjust to wartime conditions and to adopt agricultural machinery.

Consulted issues for 1864-66 and a few scattered numbers in the 1870's.

Rural Register (Baltimore), 1859-63.

Instituted by Samuel Sands as a competitor of the American Farmer, it emphasized Maryland agriculture until it too folded up during the War.

Western Maryland Farmer, Frederick, Md. June 1840-March 1841.

Theses

Bell, Carl D. "The Development of Western Maryland, 1715-1753." M.A. Thesis, University of Maryland. 1948.

Berryman, Jack W. "John Stuart Skinner and Early American Sport Journalism, 1819-1835." Ph.D. Dissertation. University of Maryland. 1976.

Biehl, Katherine L. "Economic and Social Conditions Among Eighteenth Century Maryland Women." M. A., Thesis, University of Maryland. 1940.

- Cripps, Thomas Robert. "The Congressional Career of Henry Winter Davis." M. A., Thesis, University of Maryland. 1957.
- Douglas, George A. "An Economic History of Frederick County, Maryland, to 1860." Ph.D. Dissertation, Johns Hopkins University. 1939.
- Gilbert, Geoffrey. "Baltimore's Flour Trade to the Caribbean, 1750-1815." Ph.D. Dissertation, Johns Hopkins University. 1975.
- Hirley, Robert B. "The Land System in Colonial Maryland." Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Iowa. 1948.
- Ives, J. Russell. "The Status and Trend of Agricultural Cooperation in Maryland, 1900-1936." M.S. Thesis, University of Maryland. 1937.
- Love, Anne Gordon. "A Century of Agricultural Progress in a Rural Community: Sandy Spring, Md. 1844-1949," M.A. Thesis, University of Md. 1949.
- McDonald, Vincent Roy. "Spatial and Structural Analysis of the Marketing of Livestock in Maryland, 1932-1967." Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Maryland, 1968.
- Moore, John Phillips, Jr., "The Landed Gentry of Maryland: A Study of Their Political Influence on Colonial Society, 1700-1710." M.A. Thesis, University of Maryland, 1964.

- Nystrom, Paul E. "Maryland Agriculture, Its Policies and Programs." Ph.D. Dissertation, Harvard University, 1951.
- Parr, John Francis. "A Study of Daniel Dulany, the Younger, Maryland Loyalist," M.A. Thesis, Georgetown, 1948.
- Puffenbarger, Charles William. "A History of Land Planning Politics in Montgomery County, Maryland." M. A. Thesis, George Washington University.
- Remington, Jesse A., Jr. "Sports and Amusements of Eighteenth Century, Maryland," M.A. Thesis, University of Maryland. 1938.
- Saladino, Caspare Hohn. "The Maryland and Virginia Wheat Trade from Its Beginnings to the American Revolution." Thesis, University of Wisconsin. 1960.
- Sharrer, G. Terry. "Flour Milling and the Growth of Baltimore, 1783-1830." Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Maryland 1976.
- 22 page bibliography.
- Thompson, Tommy R. "Marylanders, personal indebtedness, and the American Revolution." Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Maryland. 1972.
- Wiser, Vivian. "The Movement for Agricultural Improvement in Maryland, 1785- 1865." 595 p. Ph.D. Dissertation University of Maryland, 1963.
- Includes an extensive bibliography pp. 565-595 on manuscript and published material.
- Worthington, Leland G. "Forces Leading to the Establishment of the Maryland Agricultural College." M. A. Thesis, University of Maryland, 1933.

Guides to manuscripts and records

Only a few guides exist. An overall guide to holdings of the Maryland Hall of Records is being prepared. County Historical Societies and libraries sometimes have Maryland collections. However, many private papers are still maintained in private homes.

Curtis, John M. and Robert J. Beiter. Publications Issued by the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Maryland, 1923-1968. College Park, University of Maryland, Agricultural Economics Information Series 48, July, 1968.

Hartsook, Elizabeth and Gust Skordas. Land Office and Prerogative Court Records of Colonial Maryland. Publications of the Hall of Records Commission No. 4.

Annapolis, Hall of Records Commission. 1946. 124 p.

Pedley, Avril J. M. (comp.). The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1968. Index.

Annotated listing of series. Working copy with later additions available for use in the Manuscript Division of the Maryland Historical Society.

Information on agriculture in some collections, such as the Scharf Papers (ms 1999), not included in index entry on agriculture.

Radoff, Morris L. The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland. Part I, The Courthouses. Annapolis, Hall of Records Commission of the State of Maryland, 1960, 175 p.

Records of the State of Maryland are at the Hall of Records in Annapolis and include papers of some members of the Legislature.

ADDENDUM

- Brune, Basil. "Tobacco Landings and the Changing Spatial Organization of Colonial Tobacco Marketing: Patuxent River Basin, Md." Middle Atlantic 6 (July 1975):61-74.
- Clemens, Paul G. E. "The Operation of an Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake Tobacco Plantation." Agricultural History 49 (July 1975):517-31.
- Cohen, Edward H. Ebenezer Cooke: The Sot-Weed Canon. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1975.
- Devine, T. M. The Tobacco Lords: A Study of the Tobacco Merchants of Glasgow and Their Trading Activities, c. 1740-90. Edinburgh: John Donald Publishers Ltd., 1975.
- Dupont, Dolores L. John Barnett, M.D. (1780-1858): Country Doctor & Gentleman Farmer, Talbot County, Maryland. n.p.: Published by the author, 1975.
- Jenkins, Mary and Eben. The First Hundred Years: Maryland State Grange, 1874-1974.
- Sellman, W. Marshall. John Sellman of Maryland and Descendants. Cincinnati: Published by the author, 1975.

NAL HAPPENINGS

SYMPOSIUM

A bicentennial symposium on Heritage of Agriculture in Maryland, 1776–1976 sponsored by The Associates NAL, Inc., was held at the Library on July 30, 1976.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

The National Agricultural Library (NAL) and Cornell University have signed a cooperative agreement for the addition of bibliographic records of agricultural serials and journals to the CONSER (Conversion of Serials) data base, a joint project of Library of Congress, National Library of Canada, and other major research libraries, under the management of the Council on Library Resources. Cornell and NAL share many agricultural titles in common. Therefore, the CONSER records will include the holding symbols for NAL and Cornell to facilitate location of the serials and journals. The work is to be completed by March 31, 1977.

AGRICOLA

The NAL bibliographic data base in machine readable form, formerly known as CAIN (Cataloging and Indexing), has been renamed AGRICOLA (AGRICultural On Line Access). AGRICOLA includes records of the CAIN (Cataloging and Indexing), STAR (Serial Titles Automated Record), FNIC (Food and Nutrition Information Center), and AGECON (AGRicultural ECONomics) data bases, and is therefore no longer limited to internal information produced wholly by NAL.

LETTERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

NAL was visited by a Curriculum Design Team from the National Science Teachers Association and Energy Research Development Agency (ERDA). In gathering pertinent material for their Energy Materials Project, the team found George Washington's published letters on agriculture located in NAL's Historical Collection to be quite helpful. The materials located will be used ultimately in a published form by students in the area of Secondary Social Studies.

BONSAI BIBLIOGRAPHY

NAL Librarian Jayne T. McLean of the National Arboretum Branch has compiled and published Bonsai, a Selected booklist; in commemoration of the dedication of the National Bonsai Collection at the National Arboretum on July 9, 1976. The National Bonsai Collection, a group of 53 rare and priceless bonsai plants and 6 viewing stones, was a gift from the Japanese people to the United States in honor of the American Bicentennial.

ARCHIVES

NAL Director, Richard A. Farley, signed an agreement transferring the archives of the U.S.D.A. Graduate School to NAL. The material will be housed in the Historical Collection.

AWARDS

The Associates NAL, Inc. presented two awards at its annual meeting July 30, 1976. The Distinguished Service Award was given to NAL Librarian Helen P. Alexander, and the Citation of Special Recognition was awarded to Wayne D. Rasmussen, Agricultural Historian, U.S.D.A. Economic Research Service.

GRANT

The Maryland Bicentennial Commission awarded a grant to the Associates NAL, Inc., towards the publication of the papers presented at the symposium "Heritage of Agriculture in Maryland 1776–1976" which appear in this issue.

ASSOCIATES NAL, INC.

REPORT FOR

AUGUST 1, 1975 – JULY 30, 1976

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 30, 1976

The most ambitious undertaking of the Associates NAL, Inc. in the five years of its existence, was the development and presentation of a symposium on "Agricultural Literature - Proud Heritage, Future Promise" on September 24-25. Financial backing was received from Massey-Fergusson, Inc., Agricultural History Society, USDA Graduate School, and American Poultry Historical Society. Papers were presented by scholars, librarians, book dealers, and publishers. These papers will be published in a collected volume in 1976 as part of the Bicentennial observance. The Graduate School, USDA, is publishing the proceedings of the 1975 symposium "Agricultural Literature – Proud Heritage, Future Promise."

Consideration was given in 1973 to the state of the Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection with the objective of developing a computerized information system for the collection. A group of concerned librarians and horticulturists met at Winterthur, Delaware August 2, 1974, to discuss the advisability and feasibility of a union checklist of horticultural catalogs, seed lists, and nursery catalogs. As a result of this impetus, NAL agreed to assume leadership and responsibility for establishing a checklist of early American catalogs up to 1920. At a subsequent Board meeting in 1974 the Associates NAL, Inc. re-examined the status of the project. It was resolved that the Associates NAL, Inc. continue its interest in and support of a union checklist of American horticultural catalogs to 1920, but withdraw active participation until NAL indicated what type of assistance would be useful in continuance of the project. A preliminary checklist has been compiled from the NAL records of holdings; the arrangement is geographical by State with firm names listed alphabetically under State. Six copies of this checklist have been reproduced and forwarded to cooperating horticultural libraries for checking against their holdings. Deadline for

completion of the checking is June 30, 1977.

A new IBM Copier was installed in the NAL Lobby in June to replace the two wornout Olivetti machines. The monthly rental charge for this machine is \$275 plus \$20 per month for the coin feature. A six month supply of ink and paper was purchased at \$135.20. The charge per copy was established initially at 15 cents. This was lowered to 10 cents in July when the IBM coin feature was replaced with a Copy Controller Key from Polytech. which does not make change.

The Awards Committee is chaired by Barbara Williams of North Carolina State University, with the support of Dorothy Segal and O. A. Hanke.

At the Annual Meeting, September 24-25, 1975, the Associates NAL, Inc. presented two awards. Albert C. Strickland, Hume Library, University of Florida received the Professional Achievement Award. Irene White, Periodicals Reading Room librarian, NAL, was presented the Distinguished Service Award. Each award was in the form of a check for \$100 and a certificate.

The Board of Directors at its December 5, 1975, meeting asked Angelina Carabelli to investigate the feasibility of substituting a medal in lieu of cash for future awards. On May 10, 1976, the Board voted unanimously on a bronze medal with the Associates' logos on one side and suitable inscriptions on the reverse.

A grant proposal for a bibliography of Chinese literature on plant genetics was prepared and submitted to a number of foundations, associations, etc. This proposal originated from a suggestion by Dr. John Creech, Director of the National Arboretum. While all the organizations applied to acknowledge the worthiness of the project, no funds were forthcoming.

Dr. Charles E. Kellogg, President, proposed the establishment in the Library of an Advisory Acquisitions Committee, which would make recommendations for publications to be purchased in various subject disciplines. A suggested list of members was developed by the Associates and forwarded to the Deputy Director for Resource Development.

In further celebration of our country's bicentennial, the Board agreed upon a one day symposium "Heritage of Agriculture in Maryland 1776-1976, to be held on the day selected for the annual meeting, July 30, 1976. This is the second symposium to be sponsored by the Associates NAL, Inc. Sponsorship of an annual symposium is one of the major contributions the Associates can make to the scholarly standing of NAL.

The papers of the 1976 symposium will be published "NAL Associates Today." The format of this quarterly publication has been redesigned and a new numbering scheme begun. Each issue is to be devoted to a specific scheme:

New series v. 1, no. 1/2, Jan. 1976: Apiculture issue; edited by Julia Merrill.

New series v. 1, no. 3: Heritage of Agriculture in Maryland 1776-1976 (symposium papers); edited by Alan and Donna Fusonie.

New series v. 1, no. 4: Home economics: Food and Nutrition; edited by Robyn Frank.

The Associates sponsored a coffee hour May 25, for NAL staff receiving Length of Service and Certificates of Merit awards.

The duly elected officers of the Associates for 1976/77 are:

President: Charles E. Kellogg
Vice-President: Robert Lederer
Treasurer: C. S. Shaffner
Recording Secretary: Donna J. Fusonie

Respectfully submitted,

Leila Moran
Executive Secretary

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